

Hafa Adai!

CUC awarded \$645K for design of solar farm. **PAGE 2**

MVA launches Marianas adventure video contest. **PAGE 3**

\$1

Saipan Tribune

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TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2024

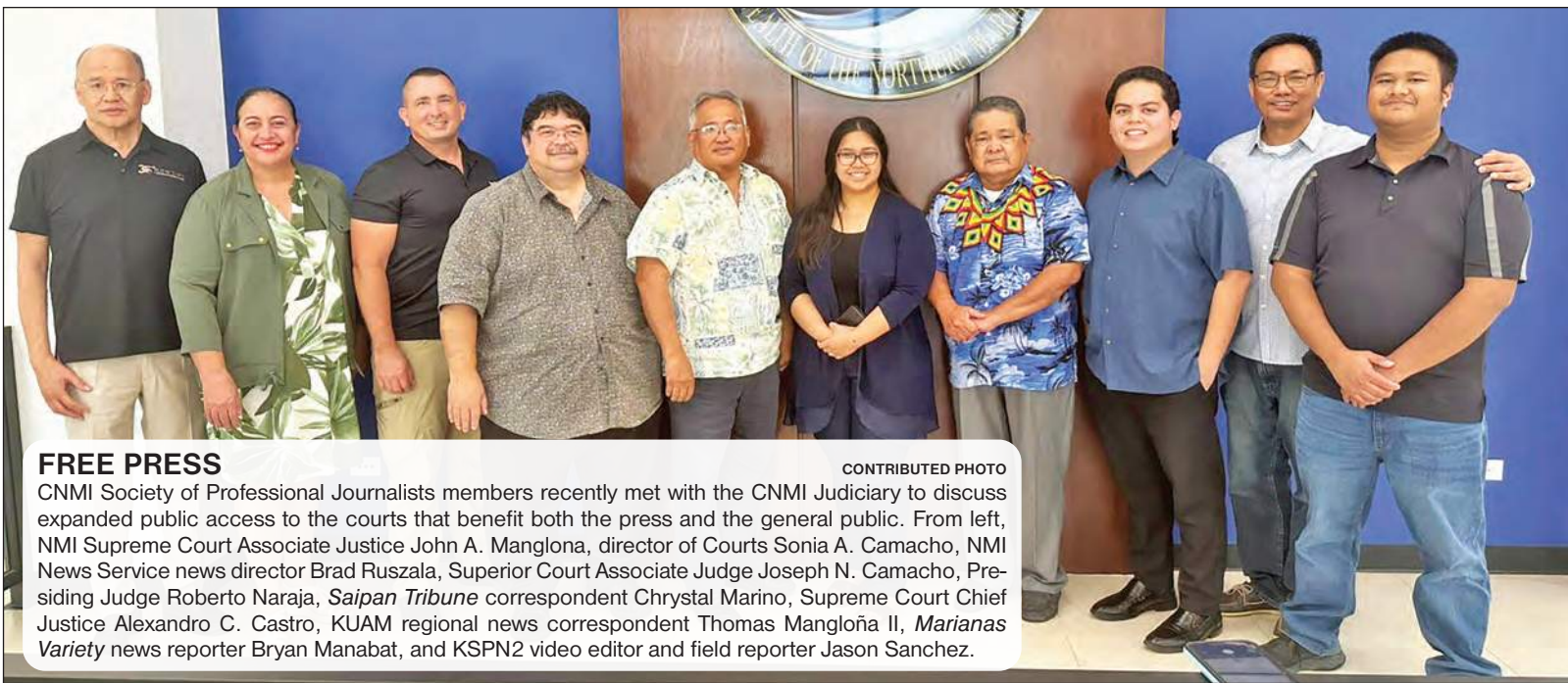
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MGI master concessionaire contract terminated by DPL

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands has terminated the master concessionaire contract for Mañagaha Island awarded to Mariana Global Inc. for MGI's failure to comply with violations cited by DPL.

See MGI on Page 4



FREE PRESS

CNMI Society of Professional Journalists members recently met with the CNMI Judiciary to discuss expanded public access to the courts that benefit both the press and the general public. From left, NMI Supreme Court Associate Justice John A. Manglona, director of Courts Sonia A. Camacho, NMI News Service news director Brad Ruzsala, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho, Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja, Saipan Tribune correspondent Chrystal Marino, Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, KUAM regional news correspondent Thomas Mangloña II, Marianas Variety news reporter Bryan Manabat, and KSPN2 video editor and field reporter Jason Sanchez.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

IN CNMI AND OTHER US TERRITORIES

GAO: Actions needed to improve recruitment, retention of federal workers

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
delatorreferdie@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Actions are needed to improve recruitment and retention of federal workers in the CNMI and other U.S. territories, Alaska, and Hawaii, according to the U.S. Government Accountability Office report released last week.

GAO found out that

overall federal government employment trends between 2018 and 2023 were similar across the U.S. but varied by contiguous location or connected or next to another.

For instance, GAO noted that during fiscal year 2022, more federal hiring occurred in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

See GAO on Page 4



The fiscal year 2023 snapshot of Federal Employment Data in Alaska, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawaii, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Current, ex-firefighters battling illness due to PFAS urged to contact local union immediately

By **CHRYSTAL MARINO**
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Due to the serious repercussions caused by exposure to polyfluoroalkyl substances, also known as "forever chemicals," the Northern Marianas Islands



Dela Cruz Jr.

See ILLNESS on Page 4

INSIDE



BUSINESS

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network and the Commonwealth Women's Association awarded participants with certificates for their completion of all four sessions during the 2024 Women's Entrepreneurship Project Cohort 4 training series.

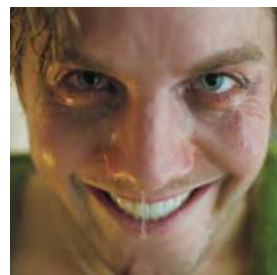
PAGE 9



WORLD

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far.

PAGE 10



LIFE & STYLE

Horror movies topped the domestic box office charts and an Oscar contender got off to a sparkling start this weekend.

PAGE 11



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Local

CUC awarded \$645K for design of solar farm

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been awarded \$645,000 by the U.S. Department of Interior for the design phase of a solar farm on Saipan.

In an interview with CUC executive director Kevin

Watson last week, he shared that CUC awarded consulting firm GHD Inc. a contract to design a 20-megawatt Solar Farm for Saipan as part of CUC's ultimate goal of 100% renewal energy.

"The contract has been awarded to GHD. It's a fully executed contract now and the final signatures

were done last Wednesday. This is for the [design] of a 20-megawatt solar farm and battery energy storage system. We will have a kickoff meeting in a week or two and issue them a notice to proceed. They are aware and they will start on the design of the solar farm.

"It's a step in the right di-

rection of our ultimate goal of reaching 100% renewal power by 2045," he added.

Watson explained that a solar farm will produce electrical power through a solar grid over several hundreds of acres of land that will help the CNMI lower its dependence on fossil fuels.

"It will be connected to the

grid and will have a battery storage unit for when the sun isn't shining during the day. We have identified the land where the solar farm will be built and we're presently acquiring that land. I will disclose this at a later date. The solar farm will generate 20 megawatts [of power] which is almost 50% of the power that we presently use on Saipan. Our power demand right now is around 40-45 megawatts per day," he said.

Watson clarified that while this award only entails the design phase, a construction phase is forthcoming.

"This grant came from the U.S. Department of Interior office of Insular Affairs DOI-OIA office. We'd like to thank them for their continued support. It was a \$645,000 grant. This is only for the design, not the construction. The construction will be a future project," he said.

"The ultimate estimate for the construction of this solar farm from our engineering group was \$60 million to \$90 million. We're designing this now so that we can use it for the construction phase. This is still several years down the road," he said.



Watson

FIBROPAPILLOMATOSIS IN SEA TURTLES

Fibropapillomatosis (FP) is a disease that affects free range sea turtles worldwide but is most common in Green Sea Turtles.

SYMPTOMS & TREATMENT
THIS DISEASE CAUSES BENIGN TUMORS TO GROW ON THE SOFT TISSUE AND CAN BE FOUND BOTH INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY, AFFECTING THEIR ORGANS AND OTHER CRUCIAL BODILY FUNCTIONS. TUMORS CAN ONLY BE TREATED SURGICALLY.

TRANSMISSION
IT IS CAUSED BY AN INFECTION FROM A HERPESVIRUS CALLED CHELONID FP-ASSOCIATED HERPESVIRUS (CHELONID HERPESVIRUS 5). IT CAN BE SPREAD DIRECTLY FROM ONE INFECTED TURTLE TO ANOTHER. IT COULD ALSO BE PASSED INDIRECTLY THROUGH ITS PRESENCE IN THE WATER AND FROM OTHER ORGANISMS CARRYING IT. IT DOES NOT AFFECT HUMANS OR OTHER MARINE CREATURES.

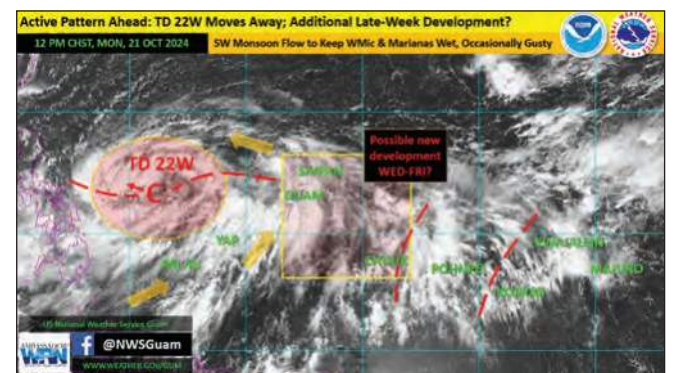
TAKE OUR SURVEY
IF YOU SEE A GREEN SEA TURTLE WITH TUMORS YOU CAN REPORT IT BY COMPLETING THIS SURVEY ABOVE.

TO REPORT TURTLE TRACKS, NESTS, DISTRESSED TURTLES, OR ILLEGAL HARVESTING ACTIVITIES CALL THE FOLLOWING: SEA TURTLE HOTLINE (670) 287-8537 / DFW ENFORCEMENT (670) 287-1126 OR REACH OUT TO US ON SOCIAL MEDIA:

facebook.com/CNMISTP cnmi_seaturtles

This ad is paid under NOAA award NA21NMF4720284

Marianas to have wet, occasionally gusty southwest monsoon this week



NWS

The National Weather Service's weather chart yesterday tracking the movement of Tropical Depression 22W.

The National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam said a wet and occasionally gusty southwest monsoon flow will persist over West Micronesia and the Marianas through the week as Tropical Depression 22W, which was located north of Palau yesterday, continues to move out of the region.

"The October monsoon pattern is alive and well across the region. TD 22W, north of Palau, continues to head out of the region, toward the Philippines, but Palau, Yap and the Marianas remain in a wet and breezy southwesterly monsoon pattern," it said in its bulletin yesterday.

The NWS added that additional weather development in the Marianas/Chuuk region is possible late this week.

"As we continue to monitor the present rains and winds affecting the region, we also watch for the potential of a second, or even a third, circulation to form somewhere near the Marianas in the latter half of the week."

Meanwhile, surf and small craft advisories are in effect for Palau and Yap while

the Marianas remain under a flood watch for the next couple of days. The heavy rains that fell across Guam last Sunday, dropping anywhere between 3 inches in the south to 10 inches in the north, NWS said have ultimately shortened the route to additional impactful flooding when heavy rains return in the coming days.

"Weather models still depict varying scenarios, so there's still uncertainty on the exact timing and location of late-week development. However, the unifying theme among the models is the likelihood of a continued westerly/southwesterly monsoon flow continuing into late week with another circulation eventually taking shape nearby. Any consideration of potential wind speeds associated with the late-week circulation remains speculative given the current range of model guidance."

The NWS advises the public to continue to follow the latest forecasts, issued every 12 hours, at weather.gov/gum. (Saipan Tribune)

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP OFFICE
P.O. Box 5729 CHRB | Saipan, MP 96950 | Capitol Hill, Building #1326 | No. (670) 664-4750

Donna M. Flores, Chairperson
Monique B. Sablan, Vice-Chairperson
Dr. Elizabeth Emma C. Itibus, Member
Diana B. Hocog, Member
Patricia San Nicolas, Member

October 18, 2024

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its 1st regular board meeting on Thursday, October 24, 2024 at (9:30 a.m.) on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

- I. Meeting Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
- IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
- V. Public Comments
- VI. Old Business
 - a. Office Name Change – status and update
- VII. New Business
 - a. Budget and Financial Report
 - b. Awards
 - a. Determine continuation of award amount of \$750
 - b. Discuss PSEP program
 - c. Others
 - c. Collections
 - d. SNILD
 - e. Appeals
 - f. Administrator's Report
- VIII. Announcements & Next Meeting Date
- IX. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Donna M. Flores, Chairperson

**DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW25-ITB No.: 42500002

SUBMISSION DATE: November 22, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Office Renovation for the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA)."

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **October 22, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **November 07, 2024, 9:00 a.m., ChST** at the **Office of Commonwealth Economic Development Authority (CEDA), Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. local time on November 13, 2024** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ RAY N. YUMUL
Secretary, DPW

/s/ BRIEN SERS NICHOLAS JR.
Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services

/s/ DEREK SASAMOTO
Acting Executive Director of CEDA

MVA launches Marianas adventure video contest

The Marianas Visitors Authority has launched a contest inviting individuals to submit short videos of their adventure in the Marianas, with the top entry winning roundtrip tickets for two from Saipan to Tokyo, Japan.

“Show Us Your Marianas Adventure” launched on Thursday, Oct. 16, will accept submissions of 1-minute videos through Nov. 15, 2024.

“Show Us Your Marianas Adventure” is an opportunity for both visitors and residents

to showcase the best of their adventures in our destination,” said MVA Marketing manager Thomas Kim. “From adrenaline-pumping adventures like skydiving, to family excursions like going fishing, to cultural experiences like building and sailing canoes, we want to see it all. And the MVA will showcase the best of these stories to the world through our Instagram.”

Activities must take place in the Marianas and be clearly identified as so, must positively promote the destination in a positive manner

as determined by the MVA, and must not exceed 60 seconds. Video entries may be emailed to elizama@mymarianas.com in MP4 format.

The MVA will select 10 video submission to be posted on the official MVA English Instagram (@themarianas), and the final winners will be determined based on the total number of “Likes” received during the public voting period from Nov. 25 to Dec. 2, 2024. Winners will be announced on Dec. 6, 2024.

Submissions must not be posted or uploaded on any public site or channel to qual-



A freediver hangs in the water and light of the underwater cavern Grotto on Saipan, the Marianas.

ify. Complete contest rules may be viewed at [instagram@themarianas](https://www.instagram.com/themarianas).

For more information, con-

tact MVA Media specialist Ezra Lizama at elizama@mymarianas.com or (670) 664-3200/1. **(PR)**



Through Nov. 15, 2024, the Marianas Visitors Authority is accepting original videos of up to 60 seconds filmed in the Marianas for its “Show Us Your Marianas Adventure” social media contest. The Top 10 videos judged by the MVA will be posted on their official English Instagram, with the top winner selected by popular vote and receiving roundtrip trip tickets for two from Saipan to Japan. For more information, contact m@mymarianas.com, call (670) 664-3200/1, or visit [instagram@themarianas](https://www.instagram.com/themarianas).

SMO apologizes for road conditions, seeks community support to address challenges

The Saipan Mayor’s Office is apologizing to the community regarding the current state of defective and broken roads across the island.

Saipan Mayor Ramon “RB” B. Camacho acknowledges the inconvenience this has caused residents and assures the public that efforts are ongoing to address and repair the roads as quickly as possible.

“We understand the frustration our community is experiencing due to the road conditions, and I want to personally apologize for the inconvenience this has caused,” he said. “My top priorities are a safe community, a safe village, and a clean island, thus, the safety of our people and ensuring reliable access for emergency services is critical. My

team and I are ready to mobilize equipment and begin the necessary repairs, but we are facing significant challenges due to delays in the release of corals from the quarry, which is under the purview of the Department of Public Lands.”



Camacho

Camacho is asking for the community’s support and understanding as the office works to find a solution.

“I urge the public to join me in calling for the governor’s assistance to help expedite the release of the needed materials—the materials that belong to you, the people of the Saipan. With your backing, we can work together to ensure that the necessary resources are secured and that road repairs can begin without further delay.” **(PR)**

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP24-CHCC/ CAS-029

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: OCTOBER 25, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

PROCUREMENT OF PURITAN BENNETT 980 VENTILATORS AND FISHER & PAYKEL 850 HUMIDIFIERS
(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning)
for CHC Hospital / Respiratory Care Department)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE (WWW.CHCC.HEALTH). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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GET YOUR SPOOK ON

Shell Stations

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Oct. 24

4pm - 6pm
While supplies last

VISA

ILLNESS

From page 1

Professional Firefighters Union is urging current or former firefighters facing serious health issues stemming from this exposure to contact them immediately.

In a meeting with the Local 5335 NMI Professional Firefighters Union vice president Edward Dela Cruz Jr. yesterday, he shared why the organization is specifically seeking out these frontliners.

With Aqueous Film-Forming

Foam used as a firefighting foam that can thoroughly suppress flammable liquid fires, particularly those involving oil, gasoline, and jet fuel, recent discoveries have raised significant health and environmental concerns as its formulation often contains PFAS (per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances), which can result in cancer, liver damage, thyroid and kidney diseases, and more.

Dela Cruz said that as a member of Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, the AFFF Foam has been the agent of choice for sufficiently killing fuel fires for the past years.

“AFFF Foam stands for aqueous film forming foam. It’s the agent of choice for aircraft rescue firefighters, or even the regular fire department, to be able to fight against certain types of fires. For us at ARFF, we fight against jet fuel fires. If a jet fuel, lights and ignites, the fastest way to knock that out with an agent is AFFF Foam. We all know that AFFF Foam is bad. And they’re phasing out AFFF Foam right now. EPA and FAA’s recent agreement is to get us to phase that out.”

He shared that there has been more awareness since the discovery of the

dangers of the chemical, but the local 5335, which is part of the International Association of Firefighters, is hoping to bring assistance to those servicemen here in the CNMI suffering from the effects of these chemicals. Especially those who were unknowingly affected.

“If you were a former firefighter in the CNMI, or a current firefighter in the CNMI, and you have been exposed to AFFF foam in any sort of way, even way back in the ’80s, you need to reach out to your local 5335 if you have any of the following diseases: If you have kidney disease, liver disease, ulcerative colitis, thyroid, thyroid disease, you need to contact me immediately, that way that we can get you in contact with our law firm in the States to get you into the AFFF claim. You have a chance to be able to be part of this claim if you have any of these diseases and you’re exposed to AFFF anytime in your fire service career. So, we’re trying to help out from that to make sure that you get the assistance that you need.”

Dela Cruz said that, so far, he has already met with individuals who have served that are experiencing the effects of AFFF.

“But we do have one claimant right now that I’ve reached out to that I know that has one of these and we’ve already got him in contact with our state law firm and he’s going through the process of it right now. And this is shocking because this is recent. He was a firefighter with us. So, I don’t know how many other firefighters have this because we all know that once we have cancer, once we have thyroid or that kind of stuff, we’re very hesitant to let people know. Some people don’t want to be known to have this and they’ll downplay it. But I’m here to let you know that you don’t have to tell everybody. You can contact me directly and we’ll get you the help that you guys need,” Dela Cruz shared.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

GAO

From page 1

Hawaii, and Alaska than in the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

GAO made 12 recommendations for executive action, including that selected agencies evaluate their strategies and efforts on hiring, recruitment, and retention to make any needed improvements; and ensure access to live training in the Insular Areas.

Dawn G. Locke, who is the director for GAO strategic issues, wrote a letter on Tuesday last week about its report to Delegates Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Stacey E. Plaskett (U.S. Virgin Islands), and Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (R-American Samoa), and Reps. Jamie Raskin (D-Maryland) and Ed Case (D-Hawaii). The GAO report was attached to the letter.

Locke said federal agencies’ ability to address the nation’s social, economic, and security challenges relies on a workforce that can ensure service delivery to the public across the country, including areas distant from the mainland in Alaska, Hawaii, and the U.S. territories.

Locke said hiring individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and abilities to address both long-standing and emerging issues is critical to helping agencies achieve their missions and better serve the public interest across the globe.

The director said, however, the federal government continues to struggle

to compete for workers with the skills needed to address the nation’s challenges, including in the noncontiguous U.S. states and territories.

Locke said these locations are faced with navigating substantial time zone differences, considerable geographic distance, and language diversity.

In GAO’s prior work, they have identified recruiting, hiring, and mission critical skills gaps as challenges facing the federal human capital system.

In April 2022, Sablan, along with Rep. Raul M. Grijalva of Arizona and all insular area congressional delegates, requested for such GAO report, highlighting the challenges of the insular areas face with the absence of current population, economic, labor force, or agricultural data.

Sablan and other insular area congressional delegates requested GAO comptroller Gene L. Dodaro for a review of the data collection gaps related to the U.S. territories.

Locke stated in the letter last week that GAO was asked to review recruitment, hiring, and retention of federal employees in the noncontiguous states and territories.

Locke said this GAO report examines employment trends related to hiring and retention of federal employees in the noncontiguous U.S.

The GAO report also examines selected federal agencies’ experiences’ efforts.

To address the first objective, GAO analyzed personnel data captured in the Office of Personnel Management’s Enterprise Human Resources

Integration database.

To address the second objective, GAO selected five agencies as case illustrations—the Federal Emergency Management Agency and Transportation Security Administration from the Department of Homeland Security, the Fish and Wildlife Service and National Park Service from the Department of the Interior, and the Social Security Administration.

GAO’s analysis of OPM’s Enterprise Human Resources Integration data shows that in fiscal year 2018 there were 166 federal employees in the CNMI and it went down to 153 in fiscal year 2023.

On percentage of hires in CNMI in fiscal years 2018 through 2021 who stayed less than two years, GAO found that retention data was not reported for those periods. GAO said data either included statistics on small groups of hires that were suppressed for privacy reasons, or no hires stayed less than two years.

The report said according to agency staff, CNMI has a relatively small candidate pool and this causes challenges recruiting qualified staff.

On hiring local residents, GAO said according to officials from selected agencies, hiring locals has contributed to retention.

Staff cited that these individuals are already accustomed to the lifestyle in CNMI, and many have a local support system of family and friends.

A longer version of this story is available at www.saipantribune.com

CUSTODIAN

From page 1

In the recent motion Abraczinskas filed himself, he requested that while waiting for the conviction to be overturned or the “Attorney General’s Office stop abetting his abuser, a politically connected sexual predator...” he’s asking that the Superior Court modify his bail, allowing him to be placed under the custody of a third party. He maintains his innocence throughout the proceedings, and claims the allegations against him are unfounded and the case against him lacks substantial evidence, noting that the evidence that was presented was “weak.”

Abraczinskas, 36, was convicted by a jury on Sept. 13, 2024, on charges of sexual assault in the first degree, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. The jury consisted of five women and one man.

In his motion, Abraczinskas outlined several reasons for his request, including his alleged plans to join the United States Navy JAG Corps that is now jeopardized by his imprisonment. He also mentioned his enrollment in a prestigious A.I. Governance course with BlueDot, an opportunity that allows limited absences, further emphasizing his need for release.

Abraczinskas argued that his release could be granted under “minimally onerous restrictions” as his case moves through the appeals process, citing what he called the “frailty” of the evidence against him.

After his request, judge pro tem Elyze Iriarte, who is presiding over the case, also recently approved the withdrawal of the Public Defender’s Office from representing Abraczinskas. The defendant has since retained private attorney Richard Miller for his post-trial and appellate proceedings.

The Public Defender’s Office noted that Abraczinskas intends to file a habeas petition or post-conviction appeal with the Supreme Court, in which he will likely raise claims of ineffective assistance against the PDO.

During the trial, assistant public defenders Charlene Brown and Karie Comstock represented Abraczinskas. Brown, in a motion for acquittal, argued that the government failed to prove the crimes were committed by Abraczinskas and did not establish the elements of the charges.

However, prosecutors, including assistant attorney general Frances T. Demapan and Chief Prosecutor Chester Hinds, maintain that the evidence presented was sufficient to support the conviction. Demapan argued that a motion for acquittal should only be granted if no reasonable jury could have found the defendant guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

Abraczinskas had previously worked as a law clerk for Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo, for a short time when a then co-worker, alleged that Abraczinskas assaulted her in April 2023. During the trial, the prosecution called seven witnesses, including law enforcement officers and judiciary staff, as well as the victim. The defense did not call any witnesses.

On Oct. 18, 2024, a motion hearing was held via Zoom, with Abraczinskas participating from prison. Before the hearing, the defendant requested permission to appear in court wearing civilian clothes, arguing that photographs of him in prison attire would damage his future career prospects, even if he successfully appeals the conviction. Iriarte denied the request as moot due to the virtual nature of the hearing.

The court has scheduled a status hearing for Nov. 15, 2024, which will also be conducted remotely.

The charges against Abraczinskas stem from an alleged sexual assault reported in May 2023 by a judicial employee. The victim told police that the assault occurred on April 8, 2023, at Beach Garden Apartments. She came forward after learning that Abraczinskas had filed a sexual harassment complaint against her with the Judiciary’s human resources office. Following discussions with HR and her supervisor, the victim reported the assault to law enforcement.

MGI

From page 1

Yesterday, in an interview with Gregory Deleon Guerrero, director for DPL’s compliance division, he said that DPL recently terminated its concessionaire agreement with MGI for its failure to cure violations to include nonpayment of fees pursuant to the agreement.

“We issued a notice of termination to Mariana Global because they failed to cure the violations on our notice of violations. It was sent out in September and they had 30 days to cure the violations. After that, they asked for an extension, and we gave them an extension to cure the violations. However, the deadline came, and they failed. So their attorney wrote to us asking if they can resolve the matter and if not, they would have to go through an appeals process,” he said.

According to information acquired

from DPL, to date, MGI has not remitted its rental fee for 7/2024-6/2025 in the amount of \$800,000 plus interest of \$12,000 for a total of \$812,000.

Currently, Deleon Guerrero states that the matter is under DPL’s appeals process and has been forwarded to a hearing officer.

Pending a decision on the appeal, DPL will take over the operations of Mañagaha Island starting Oct. 26.

“So right now, the matter has been forwarded to our hearing officer for the appeal process and we gave them until the 26 and DPL would take over the operations of Mañagaha while MGI goes through the appeals process,” he said.

While the appeals process is ongoing, Deleon Guerrero said DPL might issue a temporary occupancy agreement for the commercial use of Mañagaha’s concession area.

“We try to work with our clients but if they don’t, then the process must continue, unfortunately.

nately. What we can do, like we did in the past, is issue a temporary occupancy agreement. So, on a temporary basis, vendors could go out there and sell bento boxes, beverages, snorkels, those kinds of things. Again, this would be temporary pending appeal. The appeals process could revert occupancy of the island back to MGI, but if not, then we’d have to issue a new RFP,” he said.

Saipan Tribune tried to get a comment from MGI but was told executives were off-island and could not issue a statement.

MGI and DPL executed the master concessionaire contract for Mañagaha on July 1, 2023

DPL entered an agreement with Mariana Global Inc. to operate the Mañagaha Island’s exclusive concession for 10 years, in exchange for payment of \$800,000 in annual base rent, 9% business gross receipts rent, and over \$200,000 in annual public benefit contribution.

Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll

PHOTOS By RACQUEL FLOYD



A total of 339 members of the community gathered along the San Antonio basketball court roadside with posters and waved to ongoing traffic and passersby to raise awareness for the Northern Marianas Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence’s Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll last Thursday afternoon with this year’s theme “Solidarity for Safety” that started at 5:30pm.



The Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll was originally known as the “White Ribbon March.”



Purple Wave, Walk, & Roll entailed a 1-mile walk through the San Antonio with participants chanting encouraging and motivating slogans that change each year to reflect the theme and campaign of the month.



Wearing purple symbolizes solidarity, sparks conversations, and promotes advocacy. It also encourages action against domestic violence and stands with those affected and serves as a visible reminder of the importance of prevention and supporting victims and survivors.



Purple Thursday is a national day during Domestic Violence Awareness Month when people wear purple to raise awareness about domestic violence and show support for victims and survivors.



The 1-mile walk was led by JROTC Manta Ray Battalion.



The San Antonio basketball court was crowded starting at 4pm as organizers and participants prepare for the purple waving.



Vehicles honk as a show of support to DVAM’s waving participants.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Simple economics can help cut health care costs

Of the \$4.5 trillion the U.S. spends on health care every year, the largest proportion—almost a third—goes to hospitals. The cost of hospital services has consistently outpaced the overall inflation rate for at least two decades. If Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump really want to reduce health-care costs—as they both say—addressing this trend should be a priority.

Hospitals are heavily regulated, labyrinthine institutions that straddle the public and private sectors. In many cases, their pricing is subject to forces beyond their control. But absent (another) major reform to the U.S. health-insurance system, more straightforward changes can still help rein in spending.

Consider hospitals' biggest expenditure—labor—which accounts for 60% of spending. Workforce shortages are often blamed for these costs. The government estimates shortages of almost 140,000 physicians over the next 15 years. Yet shortages aren't inevitable. In many cases, they're the result of government policies that can and should be revised.

An obvious place to start would be so-called scope-of-practice laws. Most health care workers require a license, which is granted by state authorities. Officials establish education and training standards, as well as rules dictating what certain professions can (and often cannot) do. Proponents say such laws are needed to protect patients, and limiting complex cases to skilled professionals makes some sense. (No one wants nurses performing heart surgeries.) However, needlessly strict laws limit access to care and have been shown to increase costs. One study found that relaxing such laws for nurse practitioners could save Medicare more than \$40 billion annually.

During the pandemic, several states temporarily relaxed their scope-of-practice laws to allow trained nurse practitioners and physician assistants to perform certain tasks, such as administering diagnostic tests and vaccines, without direct supervision from doctors. Once the crisis subsided, though, many states reverted to form, despite evidence that such flexibilities improved patient outcomes and increased availability of quality care.

The U.S. has fewer physicians per capita than most rich nations and the highest doctor salaries in the world. Yet lawmakers have consistently opted to limit competition and preserve the status quo. Foreign-trained doctors, for example, must overcome a wall of state and federal restrictions before they can practice in the U.S. Even those with decades of experience must pass a standardized exam, repeat their residency programs and apply for state licensure—which can take years and cost thousands of dollars. Aspiring doctors in the U.S. are only slightly better off. Federal subsidies for residency slots haven't kept pace with the number of medical-school graduates, thanks to a 1996 law that caps Medicare funding for such training programs.

Increasing the supply of highly qualified workers who can perform needed tasks—whatever their degree—is the most straightforward way to lower costs. But while some state legislatures are considering proposals to relax their scope-of-

See **SIMPLE** on Page 7

Ukraine-Russia peace talks can't work unless Kyiv is invited to join NATO

Discussion of peace talks between Ukraine and Russia has become popular as Kyiv's battle to drive out Russian troops appears stuck in a stalemate—or worse. Many security analysts, including some sympathetic to Ukraine, now talk about the need for the beleaguered nation to concede territory to Moscow.

Much of that talk ignores the realities on the ground. Some are downright dangerous, especially the pro-Moscow proposals from Donald Trump and JD Vance that sound straight out of the Kremlin.

And most ignore the sensible peace plan put forward by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, who has the best handle on how to curb Russian President Vladimir Putin's aggression. (Even President Joe Biden hasn't paid it due attention.)

It's time to take a closer look at the use and misuse of the phrase peace talks when it comes to Ukraine—and to examine why Trump's plan would likely lead to more wars. First, one must determine on what basis peace talks could be held.

Putin has no interest in talks unless they are based on total capitulation. He demands Ukraine cede the 20% of its land that Russia now occupies, disarm, and agree never to join NATO. This would clearly be suicidal since he has broken every pact Russia has made with Ukraine. The Russian leader would use such a deal to give his army a breather and then restart the war.

Trump claims he could solve the Ukraine problem with his pal Putin in 24 hours. Bamboozled by the Russian leader (with whom he reportedly has had seven phone calls since leaving office), Trump views the Ukraine war as a simple quarrel over disputed territory. In reality, it is an existential battle for Ukraine's survival against a brutal invasion by a Kremlin czar who insists that Ukraine is a renegade region of the Russian empire.

Here at home, the MAGA czar is ready to slash all Ukraine aid if Zelenskyy won't kowtow to his Putin-esque version of peace talks. He appears oblivious to the security costs of handing Moscow a victory over Ukraine.

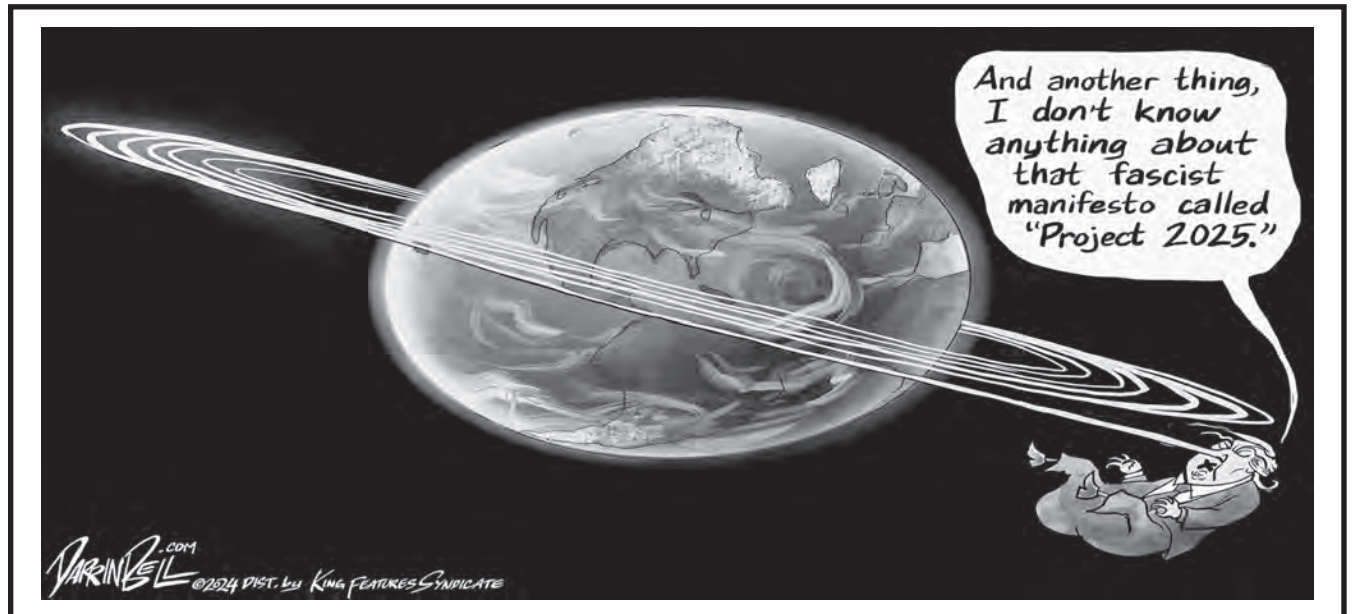
Russia is testing the will of Western democracies to stand up to a new axis of authoritarian states, including China, Iran, and North Korea. Moscow is carrying out terrorist attacks and assassinations in Western European countries while blatantly interfering in European elections and ours. The Kremlin is threatening freedom of the seas around Europe and in the Arctic, aiding Iran in developing nuclear weapons, and allying closely with Beijing in coordinated efforts to undermine the West and Israel.

Yet, Trump sees forcing Zelenskyy to negotiate with Putin as little more than ridding himself of a Ukrainian nuisance. In lying rants about Ukraine, he vastly over-inflates the dollar amount of U.S. aid while lying about European aid to Kyiv—European Union nations spend far more than we do.

Putin is clearly hoping for a MAGA victory less than three weeks from now.

This brings us to Zelenskyy's version of peace talks. The Ukrainian president rightly insists that any talks must be based on international law and the United Nations charter, which specifies that all U.N. members "must refrain from using force or threatening to use force against the political independence or territorial integrity of any other state."

In other words, talks cannot be based on the demands of a dictator

By **TRUDY RUBIN**

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the The Philadelphia Inquirer.



or the ego of a former U.S. president. Zelenskyy has been trying, with some success, to rally U.N. members to support his formulation, and thus put pressure on Putin to attend a peace summit. In this, he should be getting more U.S. and Western support.

Zelenskyy has also demanded the return of all occupied Ukrainian territories because he knows what Putin is doing to the people who live there. The Russians aim to wipe out any trace of Ukraine-ness, including language, school curriculum, and culture. Anyone who objects is taken to "the basement"—meaning Russian torture chambers.

"This is why we need to be strong, not to lose our country," Zelenskyy told me when I interviewed him in Kyiv in July.

Unfortunately, Western nations have failed to deliver critical air defenses and ammunition they promised to Ukraine, even as the White House sends its most advanced air defense system to Israel. And Biden still refuses to green-light the use of long-range U.S. missiles that could destroy the Russian aerodromes from which glide bombs are launched to destroy Ukraine's power system and cities.

"If we had the permission for deep strikes, and enough weapons and ammunition, we could win this war," I was told by phone from Kyiv by Yehor Cherniev, deputy chairman of Ukraine's parliamentary committee on national security.

I agree.

"But there is no will from the West to give us this and we feel our partners are pushing us to negotiations," Cherniev continued. "It's not our strategy, but it's our necessity in these circumstances."

Even if there were a negotiated armistice, Ukraine would never recognize the Russian occupation of Ukrainian land and would continue diplomatic efforts to get that territory back.

Cherniev made a second point that is the key to any negotiations: "The part of Ukraine we still control should become part of NATO." Otherwise, Putin would resume the fighting, which would be "worse because the Russians have learned some lessons." Moreover, without security guarantees, investors would shun Ukraine, blocking any economic revival, and Ukrainian refugees living abroad would not return.

When I asked Zelenskyy in July what "real victory" would be, he stressed "security for today and future generations and the impossibility of the repetition of aggression." He added, "The war must become significantly harder for Russia" before Putin would be forced to hold serious talks.

Yet, Biden did not support offering Ukraine an invitation to NATO at the Washington summit in July. Kamala Harris has strongly backed Kyiv and, if elected, might have more guts.

Or perhaps Biden will realize he still has a brief window to leave a positive legacy by green lighting long-range Ukrainian strikes inside Russia—and convincing his NATO allies to issue that desperately needed invitation to Ukraine.

Otherwise, peace talks would be nothing but surrender to Putin, or a gust of useless Washington hot air.

As Election Day approaches, Black folk must hear this crucial message

C'mon, man!

That's the simple, urgent translation of former President Barack Obama's plea to Black men ahead of the Nov. 5 election.

Last week, Obama was out on the campaign trail for Vice President Kamala Harris, delivering an admonition to African American voters who may be leaning toward supporting former President Donald Trump in the highly competitive presidential contretemps.

Recent polls suggest that Harris' support among Black voters is waning. About 15% of Black likely voters said they planned to vote for Trump, a 6-point increase from 2020, according to a New York Times/Siena poll taken Sept. 29-Oct. 6.

The Harris campaign is wringing its hands over fears that, even with the prospect of electing a Black woman as president, her support from African American voters is lagging.

Black voters are the Democrats' most reliable base. Harris can't win the presidency without their overwhelming support and turnout. Those fears inspired Obama, the nation's first and only Black president, to lay it out during a visit to a Harris campaign office in Pittsburgh.

"I'm going to go ahead and just say, speak some truths, if you don't mind," Obama said to the gathering of campaign staff and volunteers, many of them Black men, "because my understanding, based on reports I'm getting from campaigns and communities, is that we have not yet seen the same kinds of energy and turnout in all quarters of our neighborhoods and communities as we saw when I was running."

That attitude, he noted, "seems to be more pronounced with the brothers."

"You're coming up with other alternatives and other reasons for that," he said.

It's a risky ploy. Obama subsequently got clobbered on social media, attacked for what some saw as elitist "lecturing" to Black folks.

I am sure there is misogyny and sexism among my brothers. Quiet as it's kept, sexism in the Black community is a vicious fact of life. Some Black men don't like to see women get ahead. Especially their own. Black men are also a proud class. Calling them out in public could backfire.

Yet, as Election Day approaches, Black folk must hear this crucial message.

Allow me to convey the more pointed, real deal conversation Obama could be having to reach the recalcitrant Black men who are edging away from Harris.

Picture Obama at a bar, tie off, beer in hand, watching the game with the guys. The conversation could go like this:

"You wanna vote for Trump?" Obama would say. "On Election Day, you are gonna stay home on the couch? C'mon, man, have you lost your mind? Man, I know you want to be macho, and I get that. But don't tell me you are falling for Trump okey-doke."

"Kamala Harris is an African American woman. She went to a historically Black college. She has a Black daddy. Kamala is your grandmother, mother, sister, aunt. Real men take care of their women, and that means supporting them to the hilt, as they have taken care of you."

"Man, when this guy was a landlord in New York City, he wouldn't even rent to you. The federal government once sued Trump and his management company, charging them with systematic racial discrimination in his rental apartments. Trump

eventually agreed to settle the case and entered into a consent decree in which he admitted no guilt but pledged to not discriminate against Black and Latinos in the future.

"When Rachel Scott, a Black woman and senior congressional correspondent for ABC News, asked Trump a tough question at the National Association of Black Journalists conference in Chicago, Trump retorted that she was being 'nasty' and 'horrible.'"

"Do you remember how, back in 2019, then-President Trump attacked four Democratic congresswomen, saying, 'Why don't they go back and help fix the totally broken and crime-infested places from which they came.' All are women of color."

"C'mon, man. Trump has called your communities 'hellholes,' 'crime-infested' and 'war zones.'"

"At a campaign rally in Wisconsin last month, Trump called Harris, our Black vice president, 'mentally impaired.'"

"Man, I could go on. I know one thing. If Trump talked like that about your mama, you would do a lot more than not vote for him. You would kick his you-know-what."

Where Trump goes, violence follows

Donald Trump speaks at a fourth-grade level but without him I might never have looked up the word "stochastic." I began noticing the word in academic circles as Trump made his first run for president in 2016. Stochastic is an adjective, derived from Greek, meaning randomly determined. In social science, it suggests a random probability distribution that may be statistically meaningful without being precisely predictable.

Back then, political scientists weren't using "stochastic" to describe Trump's meandering speech patterns, which have only become more disjointed and fantastical. They were talking about the violence that he generates, randomly yet also certainly.

Violence and Trump are inextricable. After Trump and MAGA propagandist Elon Musk spewed lies about the Federal Emergency Management Agency in the wake of Hurricane Helene, threats and harassment prompted FEMA temporarily to withdraw field teams in North Carolina while the agency assessed the danger to its personnel. A man possessing a handgun and rifle was arrested outside a grocery store that was being used as a relief site. He was charged with a misdemeanor—going armed to the terror of the public. "We know that significant misinformation online contributes to threats against response workers on the ground," North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper said in a statement.

The terror of the public has been as essential to Trump's political identity and MAGA movement as resentment at the rising social status of women and racial minorities. The appeal to violence is inherent in his message even when Trump refrains from making it overt. His lies about Haitian immigrants in Ohio, for example, a buffet of racist falsehoods on which Trump's running mate, JD Vance, also gorged himself, led to more than 33 bomb threats in Springfield, Ohio. Schools were shuttered. Residents are still on edge.

This week, Trump proposed unleashing state violence—the National Guard or US military—against domestic political opponents, whom he described as "scum" and enemies far more dangerous than the anti-American dictators and Trump idols in Beijing, Moscow and Pyongyang.

"I've refrained from describing Trump as a fascist until now, but there's no other way to describe the last few weeks of his campaign," said Dartmouth College political scientist Brendan Nyhan, a co-director of Bright Line, a research organization that monitors threats to democratic norms and practices. "The wolf is at the door."

In a large-sample national survey released by Bright Line on Thursday, more than eight in 10 Republicans endorsed Trump's false claim, echoed by other Republican leaders, that Democrats are permitting unauthorized immigrants into the country to vote. It's the sort of evidence-free claim likely to incite the MAGA base, the same cohort that attacked the US Capitol in 2021 without a shred of evidence informing their rage.

The disjointed nature of the violence—shots fired repeatedly at a Harris-Walz campaign office in Arizona, a deranged gunman shooting at Trump in Pennsylvania, election officials being menaced in locales nationwide—makes it more difficult for either the news media or casual consumers of political information to plot the threats on a partisan or even logical graph. "These incidents are not confined to one part of the country and the extent to which they are linked to local dynamics—the hurricane disaster in the Southeast, the incidents in Arizona, the localized nature of election administration—makes it possible for much of the country to miss any one incident, and makes it difficult to make

By **LAURA WASHINGTON**

Chicago Tribune

Laura Washington is a political commentator and longtime Chicago journalist.



"Do you really think Donald Trump is going to prioritize your needs? Trump won't do anything for you, other than denigrate and demean you."

"So if you want to be a proud Black man, get off the couch and stand up for sister Harris, rather than that racist, misogynistic and, as Harris says, 'unhinged,' demagogue."

"C'mon man. Go with Harris, and not because she's Black, but because she's you."

By **FRANCIS WILKINSON**

Bloomberg Opinion

Francis Wilkinson is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering U.S. politics and policy. Previously, he was executive editor for the Week and a writer for Rolling Stone.



any single incident a major media event," Marquette University political scientist Julia Azari said.

Yet the connective tissue is hardly a mystery. A study in 2018 found a measurable increase in local assaults when a city hosted a Trump rally. Targets of MAGA propaganda, a list that ranges far beyond politicians and public activists to meteorologists, business owners, nonpartisan election administrators and librarians, seem invariably to receive death threats.

Republican leaders, of course, surrendered to the mob. "The people who have the power to reduce violence and violent language are people within the Republican Party," Johns Hopkins University political scientist Lillian Mason said. "But people who stand up against Trump are often threatened with violence themselves."

Trump's personal pathologies are now Republican pathologies. Given the broad reach of the GOP, Republican pathologies have necessarily become American pathologies. "There's a thrill in transgression," Mason said.

That litany, of course, also works as a loose description of authoritarian will to power: An undemocratic faction imposes its will, by intimidation and force, and its alternate reality, via propaganda, on a national population. When you mix the cultish, overlapping beliefs of MAGA, Q-Anon and Christian nationalism, the potential for harm compounds.

This year, Mason and colleagues have been surveying a panel of 2,000 voters. Like other surveys, their research shows that Republicans who acknowledge that the 2020 election wasn't fraudulent inhabit, more or less, the same reality-based environment as most Democrats and independents. The MAGA faction that can't accept election reality is a distinct bloc. "The election-denier Republicans, half of them say they strongly agree that people in the other party are 'evil' — the Democrats are evil," Mason said. "And there's no other group that looks like that. The other Republicans don't do that. Democrats don't do that. It's a completely unique effect in the electorate. That likely goes along with the rhetoric that they constantly hear that Democrats are the bad guys, they're bad for the country, they're evil, and they're going to change your entire way of life, and, therefore, violence is OK against them."

A Trump summons to violence on Jan. 6, 2021, produced an unprecedented attack on American democracy. Four years of MAGA lies and rage, accompanied by widespread institutional failure, have followed. With early voting in the 2024 election under way, we can only hope that people who wish harm on others will exercise restraint even as Trump excites their most primal fears.

Mason said that the MAGA voters in her survey panel are also distinct in their high expectations of violence connected to the 2024 election. We don't have to wonder where they got that idea. We just have to bolster our citizenry, and our democratic institutions, to counter it.

SIMPLE

From page 6

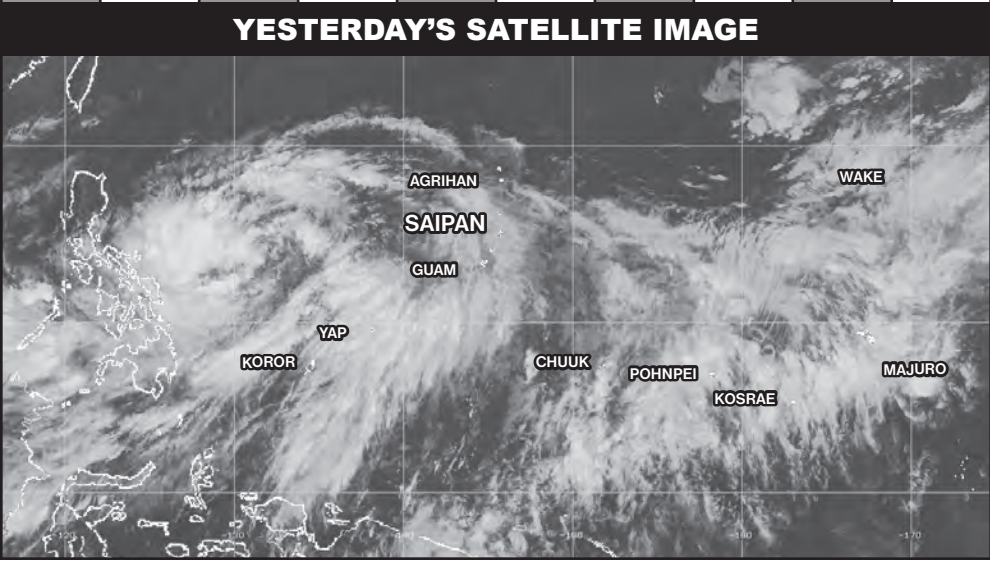
practice laws, many have struggled to overcome medical associations' (often self-interested) resistance to "scope creep"—when workers increase occupational overlap with higher-skilled professionals. Such complaints are generally off the mark: The point is to allow nurse practitioners and physician assistants to perform to the full extent of their training, not beyond.

Lawmakers need to strike a better balance. Promisingly, states including Florida, Tennessee and Virginia have granted provisional licenses to qualified foreign-trained doctors. More should follow their lead. U.S. regulators should also grant residency waivers to graduates of high-quality overseas medical programs. Congress, meanwhile, should reform its outdated system of funding residencies, with a goal of boosting the number of doctors in fields or specialties facing shortages.

Fixing the American health care system is a monumental undertaking. That's all the more reason to make simple improvements whenever possible. Increasing the supply of much-needed workers is a good place to start.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY	
Cloudy with locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. South winds 10 to 15 mph. Locally heavy rainfall possible.		Cloudy with numerous locally heavy showers and isolated thunderstorms. Light wind during the morning, becoming north 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with showers likely and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with showers likely.	
84°	76°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°	85°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 6:23 AM MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Showers waned early this morning, but latest radar and satellite trends show this was only a temporary lull, with numerous moderate to heavy showers moving over Guam coastal waters from the south. Moderate showers are also seen over western Rota coastal waters, with lighter showers seen just south and west of Tinian and Saipan. The forecast keeps PoPs at 90% for today and tonight based on current satellite and model trends. Between 3 and 5 inches have already fallen over the last 24 hours, and the risk of flash flooding will continue through at least Wednesday night as a new monsoon disturbance begins to take shape southeast of the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: <https://www.weather.gov/gum/>

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Cloudy	79° / 75°	
Palau	Light Rain Shower	87° / 80°	
Yap	Light Rain	85° / 79°	
Chuuk	Light Rain Shower	88° / 78°	
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 78°	
Kosrae	Rain Shower	87° / 80°	
Majuro	Cloudy	87° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:10 AM	5:52 PM
Wednesday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Thursday	6:10 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:10 AM	5:50 PM
Saturday	6:11 AM	5:50 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:51 AM	10:12 PM
Wednesday	-	11:49 AM	11:12 PM
Thursday	-	12:40 PM	-
Friday	12:08 AM	1:26 PM	-
Saturday	1:02 AM	2:05 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	63° / 55°	
Beijing	Fair	54° / 34°	
Hong Kong	Fair	85° / 78°	
Honolulu	Fair	84° / 76°	
London	Cloudy	64° / 54°	
Los Angeles	Cloudy	77° / 63°	
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	90° / 77°	
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	84° / 79°	
New York	Mostly Cloudy	74° / 57°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	77° / 63°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	70° / 54°	
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 60°	
Rome	Mostly Sunny	73° / 54°	
Salem	Sunny	78° / 52°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	60° / 52°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	64° / 46°	
Tokyo	Cloudy	68° / 53°	
Washington, DC	Fair	77° / 46°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
4:59 AM	Low Tide	-0.44	
12:39 PM	High Tide	1.77	
5:51 PM	Low Tide	1.31	
9:57 PM	High Tide	1.67	

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 1, 2024

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily	UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
UA824	11:50AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5	UA825	5:30PM	10:00PM	2, 4, 7
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily	UA184	10:25PM	4:15AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau	UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily	PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
				UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	2, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily up to Oct 26	UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM +1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam	UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau	7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
				7C2306/3211	11:10PM	3:30PM+1	Daily from Oct 27
				UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM +1	2, 5 via Guam
SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)				INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN			
TW308	2:30AM	6:25AM	Daily from Oct 28	7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily up to Oct 26
TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily up to Oct 27	7C3211	10:10AM	3:30PM	Daily from Oct 27
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:00PM	1:30AM+1	Daily up to Oct 27
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily up to Oct 26	TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
7C3212	4:35PM	8:25PM	Daily from Oct 27	7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily up to Oct 26
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX77	3:05AM	6:00AM	1, 5	HX76	6:25PM	1:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday
GUAM TO ROTA					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday
SAIPAN TO TINIAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily
TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

L O C A L

Military leaders strengthen Indo-Pacific partnerships during Guam, Hawaii visit

WASHINGTON D.C.— Acting under secretary of the Navy Tom Mancinelli and the acting deputy under secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Sustainment Deborah Rosenblum traveled to Guam and Hawaii, Oct. 13-18, to meet with government officials, military leaders, and service members assigned to the Indo-Pacific area of responsibility.

The visit focused on regional security and stability, as well as the defense of American interests and our allies and partners.

“The United States has always been and remains a Pacific power,” said Mancinelli. “American prosperity and security depend on free and open oceans, and Guam is a strategic hub for critically important activity for the Navy and for our Department of Defense.”

During his visit to Guam, Mancinelli and Rosenblum met with Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero and Lt. Gov. Joshua Tenorio to express appreciation for their continued support of the military, service members, and their families.

“I’m grateful for the close partnership that the Department of Defense shares with Gov. Guerrero, Lt. Gov. Tenorio, and other local leaders on island. Together, we are committed to ensuring that Guam remains secure and resilient,” said Mancinelli. “So I thank the governor and the Chamorro people for their contributions to U.S. national security, and for their strong and consistent support of the military presence on Guam.”

The governor discussed her priorities, emphasizing defense and the importance of balancing community needs with national security demands. “Our administration remains fully committed to promoting peace and stability in the region, with a primary focus on ensuring Guam’s security in the face of growing threats,” said Leon Guerrero. “The relationships we’ve established with the Department of Defense and our federal partners create a strong foundation for advocating for the needs of the people of Guam while navigating the unprecedented military expansion on the island. It is vital that we continue building upon these partnerships, from our local federal and DoD collaborators to INDOPACOM and the Pentagon.”

Tenorio added, “While we understand that the Department of Defense may not have statutory authority over some of our needs, they can serve as advocates in securing other federally funded

resources, including congressional authorizations and appropriations that are essential for the people of Guam.”

Mancinelli discussed the ways in which the Department of Defense will continue to work together with the Governor’s office to understand how the military build-up on Guam can be done in partnership with the on-island community.

He added, “We won’t do anything about Guam without Guam.”

The acting UNSECNAV’s engagements in Guam also included meetings with Commander, Joint Task Force-Micronesia (JTF-M) Rear Adm. Greg Huffman; Commander, Joint Region Marianas (JRM) Rear Adm. Brent DeVore; Guam Del. James Moylan; and leaders from the Navy, Marine Corps, Army, and Air Force. He also spoke with service members at Naval Base Guam, Marine Corps Base Camp Blaz, Task Force Talon’s Army Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) site, Andersen Air Force Base, and met with the Armed Forces Committee of the Guam Chamber of Commerce.

During their time in Guam, Mancinelli and Rosenblum received updates on infrastructure, missile defense, housing, schools, shipbuilding, recruiting, and Typhoon Mawar recovery. The acting UNSECNAV highlighted the Department of the Navy’s commitment to quality of life initiatives and the essential role Guam plays in Indo-Pacific defense efforts.

“Guam is part of the U.S. homeland. It is physically closer to Beijing than Hawaii,” said Mancinelli. “Our efforts here are designed to deter regional aggression and safeguard the interests of the United States as well as our allies and partners. If deterrence fails, we will fight from Guam, and we will fight for Guam.”

In Hawaii, Mancinelli and Rosenblum met with senior military leaders, including Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet Adm. Stephen Koehler; Commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Pacific Lt. Gen. James Glynn; U.S. Indo-Pacific

Command Chief of Staff Major Gen. Joel Carey; and Director, Maritime Headquarters and Theater Sustainment, U.S. Pacific Fleet Rear Adm. Christopher Nash. Mancinelli received operational briefings, visited local commands, and toured installations, meeting with Navy, Marine, Army, and Air Force personnel.

At the 3rd Marine Littoral

Regiment, Mancinelli was briefed on experimentation, capabilities, and training to further enhance maneuver and maritime operations. He and Ms. Rosenbaum also toured Pearl Harbor Naval

Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility (PHNSY & IMF), where Mancinelli received an update on construction efforts to modernize the yard’s infrastructure. He also observed submarine maintenance and spoke with ASC [formerly known as the Australian Submarine Corporation] employees conducting training at the shipyard as part of the AUKUS trilateral security partnership.

“AUKUS is crucial to enhancing our maritime capabilities,” Mancinelli explained. “The Navy is working closely with our partners to help Australia develop, operate, and maintain its own sovereign, conventionally armed, nuclear-powered submarines—a generational opportunity to strengthen our alliance. It was excited for me to speak with the growing number of Australian engineers and craftsmen working alongside Pearl Harbor Naval Shipyard’s experts to learn how to maintain the cutting-edge technology on U.S. Navy fast attack submarines.”

Mancinelli and Rosenblum also met with Commander, Navy Region Hawaii and Commander of the Navy Closure Task Force-Red Hill (NCTF-RH) Rear Adm. Stephen Barnett, as well as Deputy Commander NCTF-RH Rear Adm. Marc Williams. They discussed environmental assessments, water monitoring initiatives, and the Navy’s commitment to close the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility.

Deputy secretary of Defense Kathleen Hicks designated the under secretary of the Navy as DoD’s Lead senior defense official for Guam in January. In this capacity, Mancinelli is responsible for engaging key leaders in Guam; providing oversight, advocacy, and support to Commander, Joint Region Marianas in the execution of its installation management mission; and aligning efforts across DoD to meet operational and resourcing requirements consistent with the National Defense Strategy, while developing and delivering new capabilities to meet logistics, environmental and infrastructure requirements.

This was Mancinelli’s first official visit to Guam and Hawaii as acting under secretary of the Navy. **(PR)**

Business

WEP Cohort 4 participants receive certificates of completion



Participants from the Cohort 4 Women Entrepreneurship Project gather for a group photo with representatives from CNMI SBDC; Nadine Deleon Guerrero, SBDC Network director (second row, seventh left), Mercilynn Palec, SBDC Network associate director (second row, fourth right), Roman Tudela, marketing manager (third row, right), Del Magofna, Administrative Office manager (first row, first right), and the CNMI Women’s Association; Dorsha Moreno, president (second row, eighth right), Linda Cabrera, executive director (second row, ninth left), and Rep. Denita Yangetmai, board member (first row, middle).

The CNMI Small Business Development Center Network at the Northern Marianas College and the Commonwealth Women’s Association awarded participants on Friday, Oct. 18, 2024, with certificates for their completion of all four sessions during the 2024 Women’s Entrepreneurship Project Cohort 4 training series.

To encourage a concentrated learning environment, this year’s cohort was limited to the first 30 clients who signed up for the event.

Those who attended all four sessions were awarded with certificates of completion. The annual series, consisting of four two-hour training sessions each day, covered topics on credit and financial management, improving credit scores, the business loan application process, commercial loan offerings and how to improve your chances of approval success, SSBCI 2.0, the bidding and proposal process in the federal contracting space, consignment opportunities and how to optimize booth spaces and practicing proper product packaging during public vendor events. The event encouraged dynamic engagement between attendees, with sessions often exceeding training session times to address all questions presented by attendees.

Fatima Celis, vice president of locally owned Rice to Meat You, a catering business that prepares and delivers pre-packaged platters and food plates, shared her praises on the sessions presented by First Hawaiian Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Guam and CEDA, “For small businesses looking to expand, it was very helpful for us to find this type of training where we could come to one place to hear from banks on what small businesses need to know about the loan process and what we also need to do if we want to improve our financials to receive that approval.”

Frank Celis, president and co-owner of Rice to Meat You, also shared his appreciation of the experience, “I enjoyed the presentation on vendor events because as a small business owner, often you’re also the one marketing your products. The tips provided on packaging and product presentation were useful. I feel those were tips we’ll apply when finalizing our packaging, something we’re currently working on to perfect. I also thought the session on the RFP process was helpful. Although that may be saved until we’re ready to expand, the information provided was all good to know, and those workshops SBDC mentioned during that session, is something Fatima and I look forward to attending.”

Polly DLG. Masga, co-owner of Access 670 Consulting, shared, “I most especially appreciated the presentation by Bank of Hawaii and First Hawaiian Bank. Understanding the importance of having good credit before starting a business was something I never thought about. Learning from industry experts has become more valuable than ever. These professionals offer insights that come from years of hands-on experience, giving us a clearer understanding of realistic challenges and opportunities for businesses to grow.”

Aspiring entrepreneur and Cohort 4 participant, Donna Rivera, added, “It is an incredible privilege to be part of the 4th Cohort of the Women Entrepreneurship Project. Day 1 kicked off with an insightful session on Credit Ecosystem, where we had the honor of learning from esteemed professionals from Bank of Hawaii and First Hawaiian Bank. Their wealth of knowledge not only equips aspiring business owners with the tools needed to navigate the financial landscape but also provides

valuable lessons in managing personal credit and finances. A heartfelt thank you to Bank of Hawaii and First Hawaiian Bank for your generosity and support in empowering future entrepreneurs through your expertise.”

The four-day training event ended with a networking session where clients and attendees were invited to showcase their products and feature their services with their fellow cohort members.

“We are pleased with this year’s turnout of the Women’s Entrepreneurship Project, and look forward to producing Cohort 5 in this important initiative with CWA’s partnership. We are excited to work with this year’s program graduates in establishing their footprint in our economy, however big or small, as we find innovative solutions to assist in finding success in connecting them with our resource partners with whom make all of this possible for our clients and our programs,” said Deleon Guerrero.

The CNMI SBDC and CWA would like to thank the First Hawaiian Bank, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Guam, the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, the U.S. Pacific Air Force and Marianas Creations for their partnership during the Women’s Entrepreneurship Project Cohort 4 training series. Their expertise and willingness to provide education to our aspiring women entrepreneurs play a key role in addressing gaps in business education for our small businesses seeking assistance related to capital access and available resources.

For more information, visit www.cnmisbdc.com or contact us at (670) 237-6888/cnmisbdc@marianas.edu. Follow us on social media for the latest updates: Instagram @cnmisbdc and Facebook at CNMI Small Business Development Center Network. **(PR)**

B U S I N E S S

Will US convenience stores find the secret to selling better food?

NEW YORK (AP)—Americans who think of petrified hot dogs, frozen burritos and salty snacks when they imagine getting food at a gas station or truck stop may be pleasantly surprised during their next road trip: U.S. convenience stores are offering them more and better—though not necessarily healthier—choices.

From 7-Eleven to regional chains like QuikTrip, the operators of c-stores, as they're known in the trade, are looking overseas for grab-and-go inspiration, adding sit-down seating at some locations, expanding their coffee menus to rival Starbucks and experimenting with made-to-order meals for busy families.

The moves are happening as convenience stores seek ways to offset slowing sales of cigarettes, maps and soft drinks. By tempting customers' palates with fresh deli sandwiches and build-your-own burgers, the humble food marts want to become an alternative to fast-food restaurants for busy Americans who crave easy, inter-

esting and less expensive eating options.

"It has been a decades-long journey to go from food that was perceived as desperation to destination," Jeff Lenard, vice president of strategic industry initiatives for the National Association of Convenience Stores, said.

Once known for breakfast and lunch, convenience chains like Wawa, with more than 1,000 East Coast locations, as well as small operators like York, Pennsylvania-based Rutter's, have moved into dinner time with soup, chicken and fish dishes. Rutter's, which operates 90 stores, plans a new store format with expanded seating as it adds 50 new locations in the next five years.

Casey's General Stores, the nation's third-largest convenience store operator with 2,500 outlets mostly in the Midwest and the South, introduced warm chicken, pork and hamburger sandwiches on brioche-style buns this year. The company, already known for serving pizza that customers enjoy, created a limited-time menu that in-

cluded pies and sliders made with smoked pulled pork, barbecue sauce and pickles.

"We really are approaching this like a restaurant as we always have, but more so now," Carrie Stojack, the Iowa-based chain's vice president of brand and strategic insights, said. "Prices have gotten really high. So what's happening is that convenience stores are becoming a real viable option for guests."

In keeping with their quest, convenience stores are expanding delivery services to build on a customer base they found during the COVID-19 pandemic. 7-Eleven plans to take its 7Now delivery app nationwide, allowing users to have pizza, the chain's signature Slurpees and thousands of other items brought to their doors.

The nation's largest convenience store chain, owned by Japanese company Seven & i Holdings, offers select Japanese items like chicken teriyaki, rice balls, miso ramen and sweet chili crisp wings at some U.S. locations and at its recently acquired Speedway and Stripes stores.

World

Zelenskyy's 'victory plan' receives mixed reactions from Western allies

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's plan to end Ukraine's nearly three-year war with Russia has received mixed reactions from Western allies so far.

The "victory plan" that Zelenskyy outlined at home and abroad includes a formal invitation for Ukraine to join NATO and permission to use Western long-range missiles to strike military targets in Russia—two steps Kyiv's allies have been reluctant to support before.

U.S. backing is crucial if Zelenskyy is to get support from other allies for proposals he believes are necessary to strengthen Ukraine's position on the battlefield and ahead of any peace negotiations. But analysts say the Biden administration is unlikely to make a decision before the U.S. presidential election on Nov. 5, as it may not appeal to voters.

"They seem to be just doing very little now and waiting for the election," said



In this image provided by the Office of the Ukrainian Presidency, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, left, is watched by Rich Hansen, the commander's representative for the Scranton Army Ammunition Plant, while signing military ordnance in Scranton, Pa., Sunday, Sept. 22, 2024.

Phillips O'Brien, professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews, Scotland. "So much of the strategy will live or die in Washington."

Analysts said the plan is a step in the right direction for Ukraine's military efforts. They also described it as ambitious, given allies' fears of escalation with nuclear-armed Russia. Ukraine has previously secured Western support for requests once deemed unrealistic, such as Patriot air defense systems and F-16 jets.

Presenting the plan now puts on the radar for the next U.S. administration, analysts said, though it's unknown how the

next president will receive it.

After returning from making his case to the European Council, Zelenskyy said he expects the White House to provide feedback. "They will be here soon with some form of response," he said.

Zelenskyy laid out the five-point plan as Ukraine's troops struggle to hold back Russian slow but steady advances in eastern Ukraine. The plan includes three "secret annexes" that were presented only to some leaders. It also addresses partners' concerns about Ukraine's strategy after the failed summer 2023 counteroffensive.

Israel says it will target Hezbollah's financial arm

BEIRUT (AP)—Israel's military announced Sunday it is now taking aim at the Lebanon-based Hezbollah's financial arm and will attack a "large number of targets" in Beirut and elsewhere. Explosions began in Beirut's southern suburbs about an hour later.

Evacuation warnings affected southern Beirut, the eastern Bekaa valley and parts of southern Lebanon. AP video showed strikes near Lebanon's only airport but it continued to operate.

The strikes will target al-Qard al-Hassan "all over Lebanon," a senior Israeli intelligence official said. Al-Qard al-Hassan is a Hezbollah unit that's used to pay operatives of the Iran-backed militant group and help buy arms, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with army regulations.

The registered nonprofit, sanctioned by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, provides financial services and is also used by ordinary Lebanese. Its name in Arabic means "the benevolent loan," and Hezbollah has used it to entrench its sup-

port among the Shiite population in a country where state and financial institutions have failed in recent years.

"It's a big deal," said David Asher, an expert on illicit financing who has worked at the U.S. Defense and State Departments and is now a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute.

"AQAH is a cash-based organization. The cash will be trash" in the event of strikes, he said, adding that it has large accounts with big Lebanese banks.

Al-Qard al-Hassan in a statement called the decision to target it a sign of Israel's "bankruptcy" and assured customers it had taken "measures" to ensure their funds were safe. A stream of people left the areas surrounding its branches in Beirut.

In one evacuation notice, for the Choueifat area south of Beirut, the Israeli military mislabeled one target, causing confusion and panic. The location was labeled as Grand Cinema ABC Verdun, a theater in an upscale shopping mall in central Beirut more than 10 kilometers (6 miles) away.

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THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Life & Style

'Smile 2' grinning to No. 1 at box office while 'Anora' glitters in limited release

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

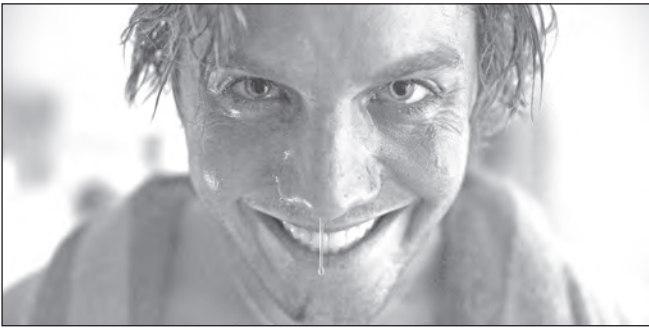
Horror movies topped the domestic box office charts and an Oscar contender got off to a sparkling start this weekend. "Smile 2," in its first weekend, and "Terrifier 3" in its second proved to be the big draws for general movie audiences in North America, while the Palme d'Or winner "Anora" got the best per-theater average in over a year.

"Smile 2" was the big newcomer, taking first place with a better than expected \$23 million, according to studio

estimates Sunday. Parker Finn returned to write and direct the sequel to the supernatural horror "Smile," his debut. Originally intended for streaming, Paramount pivoted and sent the movie to theaters in the fall of 2022. "Smile" became a sleeper hit at the box office, earning some \$217 million against a \$17 million budget.

The sequel, starring Naomi Scott as a pop star, was rewarded with a bit of a bigger budget, and a theatrical commitment from the start. Playing on 3,619 screens, it opened slightly higher than the first's \$22 million.

Second place went to Universal and DreamWorks Animation's "The Wild Robot" in its fourth weekend with \$10.1 million, bumping it past \$100 million in North America. Family films often have long lives in theaters, particularly ones as well reviewed as "The Wild Robot," and some have speculated that it got a bump this weekend from teenagers buying tickets for the PG-rated family film and then sneaking into "Terrifier 3," which is not rated, instead. Either way, Damien Leone's demon clown movie, which cost only \$2 million to produce, is



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows Lukas Gage in a scene from "Smile 2."

doing more than fine with legitimate ticket buyers. It added an estimated \$9.3 million, bringing its total to \$36.2 million.

"Rumors like that are PR gold," said Paul Dergarabedian,

the senior media analyst for Comscore. "There's no better indication that that movie is red hot right now."

The No. 1 openings for "Smile 2" this weekend and

"Terrifier 3" last were only possible because of the failure of "Joker: Folie à Deux." That big budget sequel continued its death march in its third weekend, falling another 69% to earn \$2.2 million, bringing its domestic total to \$56.4 million.

Warner Bros. has a better performer in "Beetlejuice Beetlejuice," which placed fourth in its seventh weekend with an additional \$5 million, bringing its domestic total to \$284 million. Star Michael Keaton also had another film open this weekend—the father-daughter dramedy "Goodrich" which stumbled in with only \$600,000 from 1,055 locations.

Directioners mourning singer Liam Payne leave tributes in London and other cities

LONDON (AP)—Hundreds gathered Sunday in London's Kensington Gardens to mourn Liam Payne as fans around the world grieved for the One Direction singer who died this past week.

Directioners, as supporters of the massively successful boy band are known, left tributes in London, Glasgow, Paris, Sydney and New York this weekend as they celebrated the life of the 31-year-old who died Wednesday after falling from a hotel balcony in Buenos Aires.

In London, they clapped and sang after gathering near a statue of Peter Pan, the fictional boy who never grew up created by J.M. Barrie. The mourners, mostly young women, left heart-shaped balloons, photographs and flowers at the base of the statue,

which sits next to a narrow path next to a waterway known as The Long Water.

Mindful of the crowds in the limited space, organizers asked fans to leave their tributes then move away to allow others to approach the statue.

Fans Lauren Anderson and Natasha Bradley, both 23, said they wanted to be with others who shared their grief.

"Your parents, they don't really understand how much (One Direction) really meant to you growing up," Bradley said, explaining why she came to the park.

The vigils followed those that took place outside the Casa Sur Hotel in the chic Palermo neighborhood of Argentina's capital immediately after Payne fell from his third-floor hotel room. The four surviving members of One Direction issued a

joint statement saying they were "completely devastated" by the death of their bandmate.

In Paris' Tuileries Gardens, hundreds of fans—many of them crying and carrying flowers—gathered to remember Payne.

They sang songs and consoled each other. Some lit candles. Others brought photos and artwork of Payne, as well as notes, letters and bouquets. About 400 people attended the gathering, overlooking Paris' historic Place de la Concorde.

Distraught 26-year-old Emilie Houdinet said she'd been a fan of the band since 2011.

"They helped me. They were there throughout my adolescence to age 18. They were a bit like dads to us," she said. "They were just a boys band but they were very important to us."

Alec Baldwin returns to 'Saturday Night Live' to spoof Bret Baier interview with Kamala Harris

NEW YORK (AP)—Alec Baldwin has returned to "Saturday Night Live."

But the actor who won an Emmy for playing former President Donald Trump didn't reprise that role — he returned Saturday night to play Fox News' Bret Baier in an opening skit that spoofed this week's interview with Kamala Harris.

Baldwin received loud cheers from the audience before revealing he was playing Baier, who he joked, "Yes, I do look like someone made a businessman in Minecraft."

Rudolph's Harris nervously laughed after shaking hands with Baldwin's Baier, saying, "The pleasure is neither of ours."

The skit poked fun at Baier's real-life interruptions of

Harris, with Baldwin repeatedly interrupting Rudolph in rapid-fire fashion.

Rudolph, after several interruptions to the first question: "May I please finish?"

Baldwin: "I'm asking you to."

Rudolph: "Well, then you have to listen."

Baldwin: "Well I can't because I'm talking."

Rudolph: "Well, When will you stop?"

"Maybe when I go to bed," Baldwin responded, with the audience laughing loudly.

The skit also mocked a moment Baier acknowledged was a mistake by playing the wrong clip of a Trump response.

The clips allowed "SNL" to bring in mini-skits includ-

ing one with Dana Carvey as President Joe Biden, who has played the role since the beginning of the comedy sketch show's 50th season.

The skit closed—many interruptions later—with Harris asking: "Before I go, can I just say the thing I've been trying to say this whole time? Live from New York, it's Saturday night!" with Baldwin joining her.

"Beetlejuice Beetlejuice" star Michael Keaton is hosting Saturday's show, with Billie Eilish the musical host.

Baldwin has hosted "SNL" a record 17 times, but hasn't appeared on it recently. His involuntary manslaughter trial over the fatal shooting of a cinematographer on the set of the film "Rust" ended in July in a mistrial.

Comments overheard years ago still echo in wife's ears

DEAR ABBY: I caught my husband talking on the phone to another woman. I heard him say, "Get some sleep, sweetheart," and "Thank you for being my companion." When I called him on it, he claimed nothing was happening and he had used the wrong words.

He admitted to whom he was talking, and I called her. She said she was just a friend and had no feelings for him that way. Afterward, I still felt something was going on. That was two years ago, and I do not think the same way about him. He knows this, and continues to tell me he loves me and that nothing went on. Am I right to feel this way?

DIDN'T BUY IT IN WISCONSIN

DEAR DIDN'T BUY IT: People have been known to speak affectionately to each other without an affair going on. Both your husband and the woman denied it. However, with the trust between you and your husband broken after what you heard, the time to begin dealing with it was two years ago. It is still not too late for the two of you to have some sessions with a licensed marriage and family therapist, and that's what I am urging you to do.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: I'm hoping that you can help me. My sister and I are distanced from each other. We haven't spoken since

the passing of our mother three years ago. Today I learned that she has been diagnosed with stage-3 cancer. Of course, this has hit me hard. I want to reach out, but I'm not sure how to go about it. She has blocked me from her social media and won't accept my calls. I need to let her know that I'm here for her. Please advise how to approach this.

TRYING IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR TRYING: Whatever caused the rift with your sister, it is clearly more serious than "distancing." If you put your thoughts and feelings in a letter to her, it will let her know that you love her, are concerned about her diagnosis and ready to do whatever she will allow you to do to help. That's all you can do. After that, the ball is in her court. I hope it works.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: You often respond to a person who has been "ghosted" by a friend or relative. I have the opposite problem. I have a longtime friend and colleague who has begun to drive me nuts, creating anxiety and anger whenever I must deal with them.

They are a nice person, but every time I communicate with them, they respond by texts and emails multiple times a day. They have only four go-to topics—one of them being weather. I don't know how not to hurt their feelings, so ghosting seems like the softest approach. Ideas?

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



FUTURE GHOSTER IN OREGON

DEAR FUTURE GHOSTER: Explain to this colleague that your schedule is swamped. Then stop responding to the unnecessary texts and emails. If the person asks why or what has changed, repeat that you are jammed and do not have time for personal exchanges during work hours. Period.

■■■

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

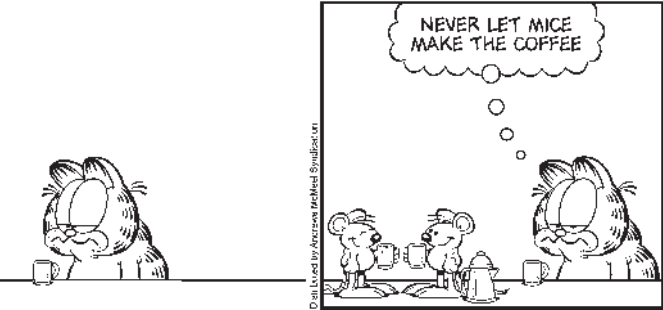
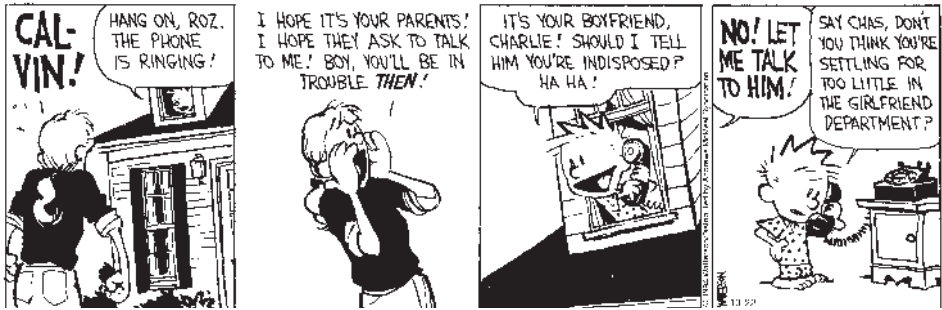
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

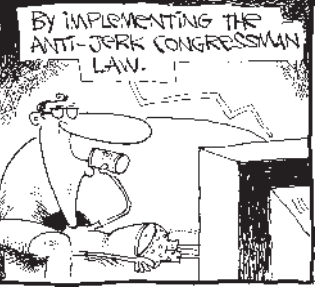


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Till bills

5 Speck

8 Circus sight

12 Jai —

13 Switch positions

14 Acknowledge

15 Savion Glover's specialty

17 French military cap

18 Gore and Pacino

19 Regret

20 Palin-dromic principle

21 Youngster

22 Crib

23 Spill the beans

26 "A Whole New World" Broadway show

30 Suitor

31 Set afire

32 Roughly

33 Diver's breathing device

35 Resided

36 Pooch

37 Light brown

38 Mideast peninsula

41 Occupation, for short

42 Weir

45 Booty

46 Emmy-winning "Judging Amy" star

48 Oklahoma tribe

49 Victory sign

50 Mosque

51 Skillets

52 Ninny

53 Say it isn't so

2 Airline to Tel Aviv

3 Siestas

4 "Ice Age" sloth

5 Dunkable treat

6 Formerly

7 Mao —

8 Dis-mantled

9 Divisible by two

10 "Unh-unh"

11 Ninny

16 "East of Eden" twin

20 Spanish aunt

21 Band's travel info

22 Crunchy sandwich

23 Scale abbr.

24 Poetic dusk

25 Eastern path

26 Be sick

27 Dad on "Black-ish"

28 Oahu or Kauai (Abbr.)

29 "Kidding!"

31 Triathlon segment

34 Japanese pond carp

35 Stupor

37 Fork prongs

38 Chow for a sow

39 Tiny bit

40 Lunch hour

41 Tournament

42 Title for Judi Dench

43 Actor Rickman

44 "Good-ness!"

46 FDR project

47 Carried out

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterdays answer 10-22

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jesse Tyler Ferguson, 49; Saffron Burrows, 52; Jeff Goldblum, 72; Christopher Lloyd, 86.

Happy Birthday: Ease into your plans, savor every moment and test your ideas to ensure you get things right on the first attempt. You have more options than you realize, and by setting your mind free to experiment with alternatives, you will come up with results that make you feel good about moving forward. Fretting over money won't help, but using discipline and ingenuity to develop budget-friendly options will lead to success. Your numbers are 4, 13, 22, 27, 34, 42, 48.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Patience is necessary to complete things correctly and on time. Find a quiet space and delve into whatever you want or must complete. Plan your actions, keep your thoughts to yourself and pursue a path that offers peace of mind and taps into your imagination. ☼☼

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Reach out and connect with people who challenge you to think. Let your curiosity lead the way, and allow your questions and ideas to take you in a direction that highlights both your desire to do something you love and your self-discipline to finish what you start. Choose to be happy. ☼☼☼☼

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Focus on what's necessary. By eliminating what's weighing you down, you'll gain the confidence to pursue something you've only dreamed about in the past. Set high standards, but be realistic regarding what's possible. Being reasonable and focusing on what you can do will pay off. ☼☼☼

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Take note of how others respond. Doing so will be telltales of what you can expect when you need help. Sincerity and an honest assessment of your expectations will help you summon the right words to attract like-minded people with something worthwhile to contribute. Networking is favored. ☼☼☼

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A long shot may tempt you, but before taking a risk, protect against scammers; do your research, work alone if necessary and refuse to buy into someone else's dream. Abundance comes from hard work. It's what you are willing to do that counts. Rely on yourself. ☼☼☼

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Participate, network, gather information and set the stage for what you want to pursue. The information and people you connect with will offer alternatives that can make your journey easier. Consider a partnership or investing time and money into raising your qualifications or in learning valuable skills. ☼☼☼☼

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take the plunge, participate and learn something new. Be a good listener, and adapt what you hear and experience by adding a unique flavor to your version. Refrain from wasting your energy on anger or dealing with negativity. Surround yourself with upbeat people who fuel your fire. ☼☼

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Pay attention; you'll learn valuable information that will help you further your life goals. Your dedication and desire to get things done correctly and on time will put you in a favorable position when faced with competition. Distance yourself from anyone trying to lure you into a debate. ☼☼☼☼

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take better care of your health, well-being and reputation. Refuse to get swept into someone else's misfortune or drama. Stick to the truth; it will be brought to your attention if you exaggerate. Look for opportunities that encourage self-improvement, a better lifestyle and love. ☼☼☼☼☼

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't hold back. If you want to connect with someone, make your move. Open communication will offer insight into the possibilities, allowing you to pursue or move on to your next adventure. It's up to you to make things happen. A change in routine will be entertaining. ☼☼☼

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): An optimistic attitude will draw positive attention. Participate in something you enjoy, and you'll find a place to let off steam and make new friends. Socializing, fitness and a healthy lifestyle will rejuvenate and encourage you to expand your interests, knowledge and friendships. Make romance a priority. ☼☼☼

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Protect your health and physical well-being. Pursue a creative project. Whether reinventing yourself or updating your skills, qualifications or appearance, a change will be uplifting and well-received by those close to you. Discipline and hard work will pay off, and success will be yours. ☼☼☼☼☼

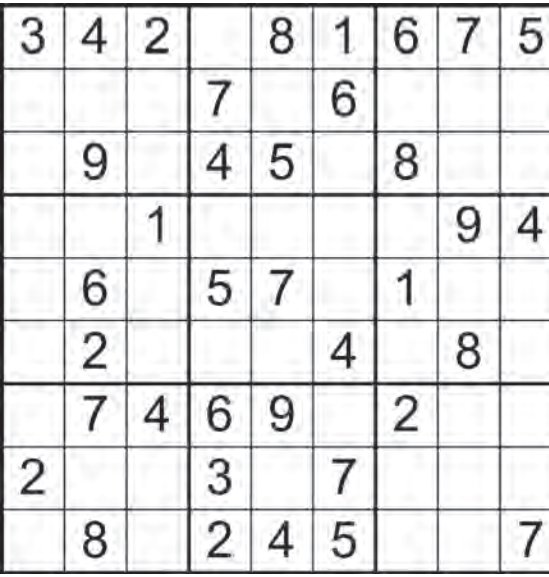
Birthday Baby: You are optimistic, curious and changeable. You are passionate and creative.

☼: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

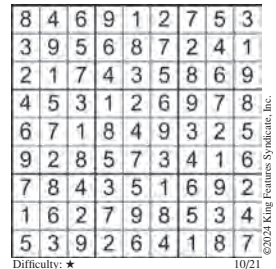
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty: ★★ 10/22
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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TRIGGERS Solution: 8 letters

R T R D L L E M S T F H I G D
E S P O E E E C S L A M I N A
H A K E D R H S A B A S U I N
T P M O E O I S I G T O T L N
A T O R O L H T E O S T R E I
E I S L E B S R R E N O M E V
W M M U A M Y Y C E L A O F E
A E O C D S I N M O E T V A R
R S K I E H E N C R O I T S
N I E D T I O Y D N O I E I A
I C A L R R R T R E N D S G R
N R A E I O X A L E R T S U Y
G E P V M E E T I N G S R E M
H X N E S L A I C R E M M O C
E E M U F R E P E R S O N A L

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Animals, Anniversary, Books, Color, Commercials, Control, Dream, Dust, Environment, Exercise, Experiences, Fatigue, Feeling, Flashback, Grades, Habits, Health, Imagery, Meeting, Memory, Movies, Music, Noise, Odor, Past, Perfume, Personal, Relax, Reminders, School, Sleep, Smell, Smoke, Sound, Story, Taste, Time, Tired, Trends, Warning, Weather
Yesterday's Answer: Long
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Dodgers finish off Mets, advance to face Yankees in World Series



LOS ANGELES
(AP) — Shohei

Ohtani carried the injury-riddled Los Angeles Dodgers to baseball's best record during the regular season. Tommy Edman joined the team in late July and helped them reach the World Series.

It's been that kind of year for the big-spending Dodgers. When Ohtani isn't amazing with his power at the plate and prowess on the basepaths, someone else is stepping up.

Edman and Will Smith homered to send Ohtani into the World Series for the first time, and the Dodgers eliminated the New York Mets with a 10-5 victory in Game 6 of the NL Championship Series on Sunday night. Los Angeles opens the World Series against the New York Yankees on Friday.

"I really feel like we finally arrived, I finally arrived at this stage," Ohtani said through a translator. "A lot of the games we played were really tough and hard to win, and it was truly a team effort to get here."

The Dodgers clinched their record 25th NL pennant, their fourth in eight years and first won at home since beating the Mets over seven games in 1988. They moved on to their 22nd World Series—13th in Los Angeles—and first since 2020, when they beat Tampa Bay during the pandemic-delayed season.

"Every year I get to spring training and I wonder how we're going to make a baseball team fit because we have so many talented players," reliever Evan Phillips said. "I wouldn't say we planned for injuries but we planned to have multiple guys contribute throughout the year."

Next up for Ohtani and Co. is Aaron Judge and the Yankees, back in the World Series for the 41st time and first in 15 years. The matchup, which opens at Dodger Stadium, features the top two home-run hitters in Judge (58) and Ohtani (54).

"It's kind of what the people wanted, what we all wanted," Dodgers



Los Angeles Dodgers' Tommy Edman celebrates after their win against the New York Mets in Game 6 of a baseball NL Championship Series, Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, in Los Angeles.

star Mookie Betts said. "It's going to be a battle of two good teams, a lot of long flights across the country."

It'll be the 12th time the franchises meet in the World Series and the first in 43 years. The Yankees have beaten the Dodgers eight times, while the Dodgers' three championships against the Bronx Bombers came in 1955, 1963 and 1981.

"It's the place that I've dreamt of playing all my life," Ohtani said, "and to be able to finally come to this stage and be able to play and hopefully win it is my next goal."

Playing his first season with the Dodgers after agreeing to a record \$700 million, 10-year contract as a free agent, Ohtani had two hits and scored two runs in Game 6. He hit .364 with two homers and six RBIs in the NLCS.

"The goal was to get to this far,"

Ohtani said. "And I also pictured myself getting this far with the contract that I've signed."

Ohtani spent his first six MLB seasons with the Los Angeles Angels, who never had a winning record or reached the playoffs during his tenure.

"We wouldn't be here without him," Dodgers third baseman Max Muncy said. "We went through a lot of injuries and there was a good stretch during the regular season where he singlehandedly carried us."

The Dodgers, who were eliminated in the Division Series the previous two years, spent a combined \$1 billion last winter to sign Ohtani and pitcher Yoshinobu Yamamoto to lucrative long-term contracts in hopes of winning the franchise's eighth World Series title.

Rookie Ben Casparius got four outs for the win and Blake Treinen

the save in his first two-inning outing since the 2021 NLCS.

Los Angeles trailed after Pete Alonso's run-scoring single against starter Michael Kopech.

Edman gave the Dodgers the lead for good with a two-run double in the bottom half off Sean Manaea that drove in Ohtani and Teoscar Hernández, who both singled. Hernández snapped an 0-for-18 skid.

Edman drove in the Dodgers' first four runs and his 11 RBIs in the NLCS tied a franchise record set by Corey Seager in 2020 against Atlanta. Edman, who won the NLCS MVP award, joined the Dodgers at the July trade deadline from St. Louis.

"I think the common theme for this season has been a lot of people, different guys have been stepping up over the course of the season," Ohtani said.

Edman sent a 406-foot shot to left-center for a two-run homer in a four-run third that included Smith's 416-foot drive to center off Phil Maton that extended the lead to 6-1.

"I never imagined once we acquired him, he'd be hitting fourth in a postseason game," Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said of Edman. "But I trust him. The guys trust him. He's made huge defensive plays for us and had huge hits."

Vientos hit his fifth postseason homer, a two-run drive in the fourth Ryan Brasier that cut the deficit to 6-3 in the fourth.

The Dodgers, whose starting pitching has been decimated by injuries, used seven pitchers in finishing off the Mets, whose \$332 million payroll was the biggest in baseball.

New York twice stranded the bases loaded, when Anthony Banda struck out Jeff McNeil in the third and when Jesse Winker flied out against Phillips in the sixth.

Los Angeles outscored New York 40-26 in the six games. The Mets came within two wins of reaching the World Series after overcoming a 22-33 start and earning the NL's last wild card.

"This should be our expectations moving forward every year, we should be playing games deep into October," first year-manager Carlos Mendoza said.

Manaea lasted just two innings, giving up five runs and six hits. Alonso had two hits and drove in a run in what could have been his final game for the Mets. The first baseman is eligible for free agency after the World Series.

"I love this team. I love this organization. This fanbase has treated not just myself, but my family so, so well," Alonso said.

The sellout crowd of 52,674 included Tom Hanks, John Legend and Chrissy Teigen, Jamie Foxx, Kerry Washington, Magic Johnson, Rob Lowe, Josh Groban, Jenny McCarthy and Vanessa Bryant.

Yankees, Dodgers meet in World Series for 12th time in matchup of Broadway and Hollywood

NEW YORK (AP)—Broadway vs. Hollywood. Subway vs. Freeway. Judge vs. Ohtani.

New York neighbors who became cross-country rivals, the Yankees and Dodgers renew their starry struggle in the World Series for the first time in 43 years.

"When you're playing for the Dodgers and playing for the Yankees, it better feel different," LA manager Dave Roberts said at Yankee Stadium last June. "If not, you better do something different for a profession."

Two of baseball's most successful teams face each other starting Friday at Dodger Stadium, the Yankees coming off their 41st American League pennant and the Dodgers their 25th National League championship. New York is seeking its 28th World Series title but first since 2009, the Dodgers

their eighth and second in a five-year span.

Yankees pinstripes vs. Dodgers Pantone 294. The Bronx Bombers vs. the Dem Bums' descendants. The granite-and-limestone of new Yankee Stadium on chilly autumn nights vs. Dodger Stadium in sunny Chavez Ravine, with the San Gabriel Mountains beyond the pavilions.

"It's kind of what the people wanted, what we all wanted," Dodgers star Mookie Betts said. "It's going to be a battle of two good teams, a lot of long flights across the country."

New York is 8-3 against the Dodgers in the most frequent World Series matchup, including 6-1 against Brooklyn and 2-2 since the rivalry became Big Apple against Tinseltown.

Mickey Owen, Al Gionfriddo, Cookie Lavagetto, Sandy Amoros, Johnny Podres, Don

Larsen, Sandy Koufax and Reggie Jackson created indelible images in the matchup, which started in 1941 with one of the wackiest World Series turns.

Trailing 2-1 in the Series, Brooklyn led 4-3 with two outs in the ninth inning at Ebbets Field when Tommy Henrich swung and missed at strike three from Hugh Casey. The ball bounced away from Owen and rolled toward the Dodgers dugout as Henrich reached on the dropped third strike. Joe DiMaggio singled, Charlie Keller hit a two-run double and Joe Gordon added another two-run double later in the inning as the Yankees won 7-4 and went on to win the title in five games.

Lavagetto's two-out, pinch walk-off double in the ninth ended Bill Bevens' no-hit bid in 1947's Game 4 and two games later Gionfriddo

robbed DiMaggio of a tying three-run homer.

New York beat the Dodgers again in 1949, 1952 and 1953, frustrating the fans in Flatbush, but Brooklyn finally won the title in 1955 when Podres pitched a Game 7 shutout at Yankee Stadium and Gil Hodges drove in both runs. Amoros preserved the lead when he made a running catch of Yogi Berra's sixth-inning drive in the left-field corner with two on and relayed to shortstop Pee Wee Reese, who threw to Hodges at first and doubled up Gil McDougald. Those players were celebrated in Roger Kahn's 1972 book "The Boys of Summer."

Larsen pitched the World Series' only perfect game in 1956's fifth game in the Bronx, Berra jumping into his arms after the final out, and the Yankees won Game 7 behind Johnny Kucks' three-hit shut-

out in what turned out to be the last World Series game at Ebbets Field.

Walter O'Malley moved the Dodgers to California after the 1957 season, and Koufax had an interlocking "LA" on his cap instead of a "B" when he struck out a then-Series record 15 in the 1963 opener at Yankee Stadium. The rivalry didn't resume until 1977 with the first of three matchups in a five-year span.

Jackson's three home runs led the Yankees to a clinching win in 1977's Game 6. The Yankees won another six-game Series the following year, highlighted by third baseman Graig Nettles' diving stops on Reggie Smith, Steve Garvey and Davey Lopes.

Los Angeles lost the first two games in the Bronx in 1981, and then won four in a row—capped by a 9-2 victory that had Dodgers man-

ager Tommy Lasorda dancing. The defeat prompted Yankees owner George Steinbrenner, his right hand bandaged after an alleged fight with Dodgers fans in a hotel elevator, to issue a written apology "to the people of New York and to the fans of the New York Yankees everywhere."

Both teams feel the history created by their predecessors.

"You put that jersey on and those pinstripes, it just feels different," Yankees slugger Juan Soto said.

Los Angeles took two of three when they met in a much-hyped series in June.

Roberts is reminded of the history when he approaches Dodger Stadium.

"I can't believe I'm driving up Vin Scully Way, when I go to work," he said. "It's overwhelming, but I try not to let my head go there too often; I just try to do my job."

Late field goal from 44 and Lions hand Vikings 1st loss of season



MINNEAPOLIS

(AP)—Jake Bates kicked a 44-yard field goal with 15 seconds left and the Detroit Lions beat Minnesota 31-29 on Sunday, handing the Vikings their first loss in a back-and-forth game befitting of the NFL's strongest division.

Jahmyr Gibbs rushed for 116 yards and two of Detroit's three second-quarter touchdowns. He also helped Jared Goff guide the Lions 48 yards in four plays to get in range for their rookie kicker while forcing the Vikings to burn their timeouts. Bates is 10 for 10 on field goals this season.

Goff went 22 for 25 for 280 yards with two touchdowns and no turnovers in his third straight game with a 140-plus passer rating, joining Aaron Rodgers (2011), Kurt Warner (1999) and Roger Staubach (1971) as the only quarterbacks in NFL history to accomplish the feat.

Gibbs had 150 total yards to spearhead a commanding performance by the Lions (5-1) at the line of scrimmage against the defense that entered the week with a rushing average per play (3.6) allowed that was the second-best in the league.

JAGUARS 32, PATRIOTS 16

LONDON (AP)—Tank Bigsby rushed for 118 yards and two touchdowns and Parker Washington returned a punt 96 yards for a score in Jacksonville's comeback win over New England at Wembley Stadium.

Rookie receiver Brian Thomas Jr. caught a touchdown pass as the Jaguars (2-5) erased an early 10-0 deficit.

In his second start, Patriots rookie quarterback Drake Maye led one fourth-quarter scoring drive but couldn't muster a second one as New England (1-6) lost its sixth straight game.

Bigsby scored on a 4-yard run after the Patriots turned the ball over on downs after the two-minute warning.

The win should at least temporarily ease some pressure off Jaguars coach Doug Pederson.

SEAHAWKS 34, FALCONS 14

ATLANTA (AP)—Geno Smith passed for two touchdowns and Derick Hall returned a fumble 36 yards for a clinching score as Seattle snapped a three-game losing streak with a victory over Atlanta.

The Seahawks (4-3) ended Atlanta's run of three straight victories, shutting down a Falcons offense that averaged 37



Detroit Lions head coach Dan Campbell, left, talks with Minnesota Vikings head coach Kevin O'Connell after an NFL football game Sunday, Oct. 20, 2024, in Minneapolis.

points the two previous weeks.

Smith completed 18 of 28 passes for 207 yards, his second-lowest output of the season but more than enough to throttle the Falcons. He connected with Kenneth Walker on a 17-yard touchdown and a huge 31-yard scoring play to DK Metcalf just before halftime.

After Walker's TD catch made it 24-14 late in the third quarter, Seattle's defense clinched the victory.

EAGLES 28, GIANTS 3

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Saquon Barkley made a memorable return to MetLife Stadium, rushing for 176 yards and a touchdown and turning early jeers to cheers as he led Philadelphia to a victory over offensively inept New York.

Jalen Hurts scored on two tush-push quarterback sneaks and threw a 41-yard touchdown pass to A.J. Brown as the Eagles (4-2) beat the Giants (2-5) for the sixth time in seven games and 14th in 17. Philadelphia's defense was just as good, recording eight sacks and limiting New York to 119 yards.

What was different this time was Barkley was wearing an Eagles uniform. The second pick overall by New York in 2018, he left as a free agent after last season and signed a three-year, \$37.5 million contract in March. He was greeted by boos but they didn't last.

Barkley was worth every penny on Sunday, waking up the Eagles with a 55-yard run around left end to set up his 3-yard TD that put Philadelphia ahead 7-0 in the second quarter. Hurts then connected with Brown on a go route on fourth down to increase the

margin to 14-0.

PACKERS 24, TEXANS 22

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Brandon McManus kicked a 45-yard field goal as time expired in his debut performance with Green Bay, lifting the Packers past the Texans.

Green Bay (5-2) overcame three turnovers to win its third straight and snap the Texans' three-game winning streak.

Green Bay's Jordan Love was 24 of 33 for 220 yards with three touchdowns and two interceptions.

Houston's Joe Mixon rushed for 115 yards and two touchdowns. Ka'imi Fairbairn was 3 of 3 on field-goal attempts and put the Texans (5-2) ahead by making a 35-yarder with 1:44 left.

C.J. Stroud was just 10 of 21 for a career-low 86 yards and was sacked four times.

BENGALS 21, BROWNS 14

CLEVELAND (AP)—Browns quarterback Deshaun Watson suffered a possible season-ending Achilles tendon injury in the first half of Cleveland's loss to Cincinnati on Sunday as Joe Burrow got his first road win against the Bengals' in-state AFC North rival.

Watson's leg crumpled on a non-contact play as he dropped back to pass with 1:26 left before halftime. As he planted, Watson's calf appeared to quiver before he gave himself up and dropped to the turf.

The embattled Watson, whose tenure with Cleveland has been marked by off-field problems, injuries and poor play, covered his head with

a towel as he was carted off the field. While he was down, players from both teams came off the sidelines to surround him and offer support.

The Browns only announced Watson injured his Achilles tendon and didn't provide any other specifics. There's a strong chance he won't play again this season, and it's possible Watson's days with Cleveland are over.

BILLS 34, TITANS 10

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP)—Amari Cooper scored the go-ahead touchdown in his debut with Buffalo and Josh Allen overcame a sluggish first half to throw two touchdown passes in his 100th career start to help the Bills rally from a 10-point deficit and beat the Titans.

Cooper's 12-yard TD catch was his first reception for the Bills and came five days after being acquired in a trade with the Cleveland Browns. Ty Johnson also scored on a 4-yard catch, and James Cook and Ray Davis rounded out the rout with touchdown runs.

After being limited to 4 of 11 for 65 yards in the first half, Allen finished 21 of 33 for 323 yards. It marked his 26th career 300-yard game and first this season. And Allen did so against a Titans defense that entered ranked first against the pass and had yet to allow 200 yards passing this season.

Allen improved his career record to 68-32 as a starter, matching four players—Joe Montana, Terry Bradshaw, Brett Favre and Aaron Rodgers—for the sixth-most wins in a quarterback's first 100 starts.

COLTS 16, DOLPHINS 10

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—

Tyler Goodson ran for one touchdown and Anthony Richardson led Indianapolis on two fourth-quarter scoring drives to clinch a victory over Miami.

Matt Gay's 22-yard field goal with 8:41 left in the game gave Indy its first lead, and a defensive stop at the Indianapolis 33-yard line in the final minute sealed the victory over the NFL's lowest-scoring team.

The Dolphins (2-4) had a chance to tie the score on a 54-yard field goal with 5:14 to go, but Jason Sanders' kick hit the left upright and bounced harmlessly into the end zone.

Indy (4-3) has won four of its past five and three straight home games since a loss to Houston in its opener.

COMMANDERS 40, PANTHERS 7

LANDOVER, Md. (AP)—Marcus Mariota replaced injured rookie quarterback Jayden Daniels early in the second quarter, Dante Fowler returned an interception 67 yards for a touchdown and Washington routed Carolina.

Concern over Daniels' status overshadowed the victory after the No. 2 pick and offensive rookie of the year favorite left with a rib injury. His mother posted on social media that "he's fine," and given the lopsided score, it would have been more surprising if Daniels returned, and the 2023 Heisman Trophy winner spent the second half on the bench chatting and laughing with teammates.

The Commanders (5-2) did just fine without him for a vast majority of the game after he had a 46-yard run and completed a couple of passes on their opening possession. They already led at that point thanks to Fowler's pick-6, Andy Dalton's first of two interceptions, the second by Emmanuel Forbes, who returned from being a healthy scratch last week.

The defense dominated, allowing 180 yards, stopping seven of 10 third-down chances and sacking Dalton twice.

RAMS 20, RAIDERS 15

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP)—Kam Curl returned a fumble 33 yards for a touchdown and Kyren Williams rushed for 76 yards and two scores in Los Angeles' victory over Las Vegas.

Cobie Durant had an interception and later caused the fumble returned for a TD by Curl for the Rams (2-4), who forced four turnovers by Gardner Minshew. The Raiders' backup quarterback was forced into action by an early hand injury for Aidan O'Connell.

Jaylen McCollough had two more interceptions for Los Angeles, including the game-clinching pick with 1:18 to play.

Matthew Stafford passed for 154 yards for the Rams (2-4), who snapped a two-game skid during their worst start to a season in coach Sean McVay's eight years in charge.

CHIEFS 28, 49ERS 18

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP)—Patrick Mahomes overcame two interceptions to deliver a few big plays with his feet and Kansas City remained the league's only undefeated team, beating San Francisco in a Super Bowl rematch.

The stakes and the quality of play weren't at the same level as eight months ago when Mahomes and the Chiefs (6-0) beat the 49ers (3-4) 25-22 in overtime for their Super Bowl title in five seasons.

But the result was the same with Kansas City winning its fifth straight over San Francisco, including two Super Bowls.

Mahomes finished 16 for 27 for 154 yards and has eight interceptions and six passing touchdowns this season. But that has been enough for Kansas City to become the 10th defending Super Bowl champion to start the following season with six straight wins.

STEELERS 37, JETS 15

PITTSBURGH (AP)—Russell Wilson threw two touchdown passes and ran for another score in his Pittsburgh debut to lead the Steelers to a win over Aaron Rodgers and New York.

The 35-year-old Wilson, who spent the first six weeks watching from the sideline while recovering from a calf injury, validated head coach Mike Tomlin's decision to turn to the nine-time Pro Bowler over Justin Fields, who was steady if not always spectacular in Wilson's absence.

Though he's not quite in the "Let Russ Cook" era of his prime, Wilson looked more than capable while overcoming a sluggish start to pass for 264 yards, including scores to George Pickens and Van Jefferson as Pittsburgh (5-2) won its second straight in front of a packed Acrisure Stadium crowd that included Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump.

New York's retooled offense—which now includes Davante Adams, who was reunited with Rodgers earlier this week after being acquired in a trade with Las Vegas—couldn't keep up as the Jets (2-5) dropped their fourth consecutive game, including an 0-2 mark under interim coach Jeff Ulbrich.

NMI runners in Japan for cross-country regional champs

Twenty elite student-athletes from the Northern Mariana Islands will represent the region at the 2024 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championship, set for Oct. 21-22 at Resol no Mori, Japan. This prestigious event will feature athletes from Agape Christian School, Marianas High School, Saipan International School, and Saipan Southern High School.



The CNMI team to the 2024 Asia Pacific Invitational Cross Country Championship poses for a group photo at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport departure area before their flight to Japan last weekend.

FMS

From page 16

when Daniel Camacho converted a 3-pointer. That, however, didn't even leave a dent in FMS' lead as they just went about their ways and continued to make it rain buckets.

Only 2 more points would add to MCS' total, while FMS' Leon Duenas, Kory Chaikhamian, Kyler Laniyo, and the rest of the starting five and bench players contributed to their championship run.

Dezmon Camacho, Logan Daniel, Leon Duenas, Jairus Pangilinan, Greg Teregeyo, Gavin Rogolifo, Kory Chaikhamian, Kelvin John, Ja-

viun Sablan Jr., Kyler Laniyo, Worthy Degang, John Rebenog, Aiden Gimed, and Andrei Tenorio made up the FMS championship team.

The Knights included Leighton Tenorio, Landon Igisomar, Xin Le Steven Song, Elijah Dela Cruz, James Matsumoto Jr., Leonmar Regalado, Kainoa Tenorio, Joey Mostales, Lym Villagomez, Donald Tagabuel Jr., Gonshiro Sasamoto, Daniel Camacho, and Ye Lei Bruce Song.

Third place was Hopwood Middle School Hilitais after they lost to MCS, 26-17.

FMS head coach Dexter Tenorio was interviewed after the awards ceremony. He said this season, "We were prepared. Six months before

the league, we prepared. It was unexpected with MCS. I'm speechless this time because the trophy and the championship are back with FMS."

The championship bounces back and forth from HMS to FMS as last season, FMS lost to HMS, while the year before that, FMS were the champions. FMS were also the champions during the school year 2021-2022.

With that, Tenorio said, "I would just like to thank all the teachers, supporters, and the students who listened to us... As well as my assistant coaches Ezekiel Macario and Michael Suazo."

As to what was different with his team this season than last season, he said, "last year, they were all just

Ziheng Cai (ACS), Simon Tang (SSHS), Landen Taflinger (SIS), Ruizhe Zhu (ACS), and Lang Yang (ACS). Michael Miller, a standout from Marianas High School, was named to the All-Island team at last year's API in Guam, where he impressed with his performance.

The girls' team features Kaithlyn Chavez (SIS), Addalee Taflinger (SIS), Zhaoyu Shen (ACS), Aubrey White (SIS), Jiamei Hong (ACS), Ruishi Zhu (ACS), Julie Chavez (SIS), Catherine Pan (MHS), Jian Chun (MHS), and Panpan Zhang (ACS). Kaithlyn Chavez (SIS) also earned a spot on last year's All-Island team, following a stellar showing at the 2023 API in Guam.

The championship will take place on a challenging 5-kilometer course nestled in the forested area of Resol no Mori, with the athletes also participating in relay events. The team has been training intensively, guided by coaches Ron Snyder, Angela Taflinger, and Kok Pang.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our athletes to compete interna-

tionally and demonstrate their hard work and dedication," said Snyder, Northern Marianas Athletics distance coach. "We're thrilled for the team, and we know they'll make the NMI proud."

The Asia Pacific Invitational not only provides a platform for intense competition but also encourages cultural exchange and sportsmanship among athletes from diverse nations. The NMI delegation is eager to compete, with the entire community backing them in their efforts to bring pride to the islands.

This year's uniforms were designed by Kaithlyn Chavez and Addalee Taflinger. The NMI delegation's participation was made possible thanks to the generous support of Run Saipan, Northern Marianas Athletics, and PSS Athletics, with Federal Programs Office funding providing crucial financial backing for this life-changing experience.

For more information, visit the API website at: <https://kantoxc.caj.ac.jp/details.html>. (PR)



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES						
NFL STANDINGS						
AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
East						
	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	5	2	0	.714	199	136
Miami	2	4	0	.333	70	129
N.Y. Jets	2	5	0	.286	128	145
New England	1	6	0	.143	99	175
South						
Houston	5	2	0	.714	165	159
Indianapolis	4	3	0	.571	155	149
Jacksonville	2	5	0	.286	145	194
Tennessee	1	5	0	.167	106	144
North						
Pittsburgh	5	2	0	.714	161	101
Baltimore	4	2	0	.667	177	149
Cincinnati	3	4	0	.429	178	166
Cleveland	1	6	0	.143	109	162
West						
Kansas City	6	0	0	1.000	146	103
L.A. Chargers	3	2	0	.600	91	66
Denver	4	3	0	.571	145	106
Las Vegas	2	5	0	.286	124	183
NATIONAL CONFERENCE						
East						
Washington	5	2	0	.714	218	152
Philadelphia	4	2	0	.667	134	115
Dallas	3	3	0	.500	126	168
N.Y. Giants	2	5	0	.286	99	149
South						
Tampa Bay	4	2	0	.667	178	141
Atlanta	4	3	0	.571	163	169
New Orleans	2	5	0	.286	177	180
Carolina	1	6	0	.143	110	243
North						
Detroit	5	1	0	.833	182	120
Minnesota	5	1	0	.833	168	107
Green Bay	5	2	0	.714	186	143
Chicago	4	2	0	.667	148	101
West						
Seattle	4	3	0	.571	180	164
San Francisco	3	4	0	.429	180	158
Arizona	2	4	0	.333	133	163
L.A. Rams	2	4	0	.333	114	154

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NMI

From page 16

challenge other countries. We challenged Poland, Indonesia (who are champions, by the way), Sri Lanka, and Macua, China. We did a placing round in which we challenged Azerbaijan and Uganda."

For Tsukagoshi, she said, "I feel that from this tournament I have learned many new things mentally and physically. From this experience I have been given, I will use the things I have learned from this tournament to put into play and use it in my future tournaments. I would also teach beginners and younger kids that are interested in

badminton to show what this sport is and what they can do with it."

As for Lansangan, she said, "Being able to take part in the world junior championships was an honor, along with playing with and against various different countries. The training was beneficial to hone my skills and overall, it was a great opportunity to improve my badminton. Overall, I

had a great time."

Odicta, for his part, said, "It was a really great experience having to play badminton abroad against many countries and meeting new people. Getting to see how other juniors at our age play at such a high level inspired me to train harder and learn new factors that surround the sport."

SPC

From page 16

also racked up a gold in the V6 500m finals with a time of 2:15.45. Puti'on Tasi claimed silver at 2:21.65, and Taotao Galaide won bronze at 2:52.91. In fourth place was Maneran Galaide at 2:31.14, while SPC 2 was fifth with a time of 2:51.17.

In the junior mixed V6 division, SPC 1 won the gold medal once again when they clocked in at 2:22.12. SPC 2 won silver with their time of 2:25.37, while Puti'on Tasi won bronze with 2:27.57. Taotao Galaide was fourth at 2:33.00; Maneran Galaide came in fifth at 2:34.90; and Guam's Haggan Juniors placed sixth at 2:43.39.

In the longer 1,500m races, SPC junior women's V6 team paddled their way to their second gold of the day with a time of 9:48.96.

Silver went to Puti'on Tasi at 10:16.17, while bronze was Taotao Galaide at 10:55.67.

SPC 1 junior men's V6 team outpaced everyone for their second gold of the day with a time of 8:47.84. Puti'on Tasi settled for silver again at 9:27.33, while bronze was once again Taotao Galaide at 9:46.89.

Then in the mixed V6 1,500m finals, SPC 2 left SPC 1 behind for a golden finish of 8:49.86. SPC 1 settled for silver at 9:43.93, while bronze was Haggan Juniors at 10:04.97.

Tyler Andrew, who led SPC 1 on Day 1 and 2, said of last Saturday's sweep, "Our performance was very good... It was definitely the goal but I wouldn't say it was expected."

On how having home waters advantage worked in their favor, he said, "We knew how the water and bumps work—all the spots. So, we kind of had that leverage over the other teams." He added that their team's

chemistry is unmatched as they hang out a lot even outside practice, so that was translated in the way they move their canoe through the water.

As for the competition, he said, "Competition was great. They really gave us a fight and boosted our adrenaline."

Results of the rest of last Saturday's finals, as well as results of the last day of races last Sunday—the long-distance races, will be posted in the next issues of *Saipan Tribune*.

The CNMI teams were Marianas Outrigger Club, Saipan Paddling Club, and Marianas Pacific Paddlers.

The teams from Guam include Animun Tasi, Bihun Tasi, Haggan Jrs., Maneran Galaide, Napu, PFM, Poksai Canoe Club, Puti'on Tasi, and Taotao Galaide.

The lone team from RMI that made the long trip to Saipan is the Majol Canoe Paddling Club.

NMNPSF would like to thank the

following sponsors: Tan Holdings, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, Crowne Plaza, IT&E, MARPAC, Marianas Visitors Authority, Turnkey Solutions, The Athlete's Foot, Paradise Realty Saipan, Marianas Pacific Paddlers, Micronesia Brokers, H.K. Pangelinan & Associates, LLC, Coca Cola, UR Tents, Northern Marianas College's media team, Hafa Adai Rent A Car, and Herman's Bakery.

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Dodgers finish off Mets, advance to face Yankees in World Series
PAGE 13

Saipan Tribune Sports

NMI runners in Japan for cross-country regional champs
PAGE 15



16 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2024

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Undefeated FMS throttle MCS for title

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The undefeated Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders dismantled the Mount Carmel School Knights, 54-7, to wrap up their dominant season with a championship in the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Napu Riders had a relatively easy path to the finals as they were undefeated in the regular season and in the



LEIGH GASES

Players of champion team Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders pose with their medals and trophy during the awards ceremony of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

playoffs. They took their momentum and went full steam ahead in the finals against the Knights.

The much more experienced and older FMS team blew the Knights out of the water from the jump ball

as they allowed just 2 points in the first half.

It was in stark contrast to the Napu Riders' offense with effortless and consecutive takes at the basket by leading scorer Logan Daniel. At the end of the

first half, he scored 10 points to help his team lead, 25-2.

The Knights couldn't establish a rhythm and weren't able to penetrate FMS' defenses until about nine minutes left into the second half

See FMS on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Some Francisco M. Sablan Middle School Napu Riders players pose for the camera before the awards ceremony of the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2024-2025 last Saturday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NMI debuts in BWF World Champs

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The NMI debuted in the U19 Yonex BWF World Junior Championships 2024 in Nanchang, China held from Sept. 30 to Oct. 5.

The 12-man NMI Junior National Badminton Team competed in the mixed team relay (Suhandinata Cup) against topnotch junior badminton players from Group F nations Indonesia, Poland, Sri

Lanka, and Macau, China.

They also participated in the Badminton World Federation Youth Athlete Development Training Camp last Sep. 26-28.

The team was made up of six girls and six boys. The boys team included Sean Dizon, Marlon Bautista Jr., Dave Odicta, Jude Mallari, Brandon Manacop, and J.P. Delos Reyes, while the girls team consisted of Lina Tsukagoshi, Shaina Malonzo, Genelyn



BWF

The NMI Junior National Badminton Team poses for a photo with their coach Janelle Pangilinan, far left, and manager Ezekiel Macario, far right, during the U19 Yonex BWF World Junior Championships 2024 in Nanchang, China held last Sept. 30-Oct. 5.

Lansangan, Ruth Charmaine Bautista, Angela Maratas, and Abigael Robles. They were joined by coaches Nathan Guerrero and Janelle Pangilinan and team manager Ezekiel Macario.

Each event against each opponent consisted of two teams each for the singles (men's, women's), doubles (men's, women's), and mixed doubles for a total of 10 matches. At the end of each event, the scores were tallied for both teams for the total score.

The NMI first faced off with Poland last Sept. 30 and lost with a score of 48-110. Their next opponent, also on

the same day, was Indonesia. NMI lost, 47-110. On Oct. 2, they challenged Macau, China and fell, 49-110, and wrapped up the tourney with a loss to Sri Lanka, 45-110.

Despite losing in the tournament, Pangilinan said that the event was a great opportunity for the team to experience challenging players from other countries.

She said, "The first day was good. Some of the players were a bit nervous since it's their first big competition. Although we lost in the team event, it was a great opportunity for them to

See NMI on Page 15



BWF

NMI Junior National Badminton Team player Dave Odicta, left, in action with doubles partner Marlon Bautista during the U19 Yonex BWF World Junior Championships 2024 in Nanchang, China held last Sept. 30-Oct. 5.

SPC Juniors sweep Day 2



LEIGH GASES

Saipan Paddling Club 1 team celebrates as they paddle to shore after the mixed V6 500m finals on Day 2 of the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The blue hues of Saipan Paddling Club's uniform made them one with the sparkling ocean off the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan as their junior teams

dominated Day 1, with results posted last Monday, and ruled Day 2 once

again—this time—with a sweep of V6 500m and 1,500m races.

In the junior women's V6 500m finals, SPC bagged gold with a time of 2:35.28.

Silver was Guam's Puti'on Tasi at 2:43.99, while

Guam's Maneran excelled on Day 1 and Day 2 last Friday and last Saturday during the three-day 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race.

SPC 1 junior men's team

See SPC on Page 15



LEIGH GASES

Saipan Paddling Club 1 team celebrates after the mixed V6 500m finals on Day 2 of the 24th Micronesia Cup Canoe Race last Saturday at the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan.